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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Arrives in Kuwait for Talks 22 Nov

LD2211094589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0758 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 22 (KUNA)—President of the Palestine state Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Wednesday on a short visit to Kuwait.

During his visit, 'Arafat is expected to brief his highness the amir, his highness the crown prince and prime minister Sheikh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salam al-Sabah on latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the light of the Palestinian uprising.

'Arafat is also going to explain the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinian response on them which was handed to the Egyptian Government yesterday.

On arrival, 'Arafat was received by minister of state for cabinet affairs Rashid al-Rashid, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council Salim al-Za'nun and the Palestine's ambassador in Kuwait 'Awni Battash.

Arab League To Convene for 'Emergency Talks'

LD2211113389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Nov 22 (KUNA)—The Arab League said on Wednesday its Foreign Ministers' Council will meet next Sunday for emergency talks called by Palestine to discuss the Palestinian question and the Mideast peace process.

Quorum for the meeting has been secured with 13 of the League's 22 members expressing readiness to participate.

Israel's continued refusal to talk to PLO representatives and its insistence that a proposed Palestinian-Israel dialogue should only discuss Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza are expected to be the main topic of the League's ministerial session.

'Abbas Interviewed on U.S., Peace, Other Issues

JN1911181489 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 18 Nov 89 p 12

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, "coordinator of Palestinian meetings with Israelis, and director of the Soviet Desk within the Palestinian leadership," by Shakir al-Jawhari—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] Are Israel's conditions and the counter conditions of the Palestinians concerning Baker's proposals leading to a stalemate of the U.S. initiative on the Middle East?

['Abbas] The matter depends on the U.S. position itself, because it is the United States that has launched the plan, which calls for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and which should bring views close together logically and realistically to start the dialogue. However, we should notice that if Washington continues to support Shamir's position, accepts his conditions, and responds to the guarantees he demands, the dialogue will not take place.

[Al-Jawhari] When I read your booklet entitled "Why These Contacts?" I knew that it is Washington that curbs any possible peace prospect in Israel.

['Abbas] Washington does not want us to use the word "hamper" against it, but the United States does not take any positive step toward a settlement.

[Al-Jawhari] Does it act negatively?

['Abbas] In fact, it is acting negatively now. It listens to the other sides' views, and it is trying to bring them close together without exercising any pressure on the intransigent party, Israel. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Let us return to the issue of Shamir's visit to Washington.

['Abbas] The Americans will try to bring views close together but they cannot exercise any pressure on Israel, they say. We know that the United States can pressure Shamir, but it does not want that at present.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the reported contacts between you and the Likud?

['Abbas] These reports are not accurate. What happened is that a meeting was held between a PLO delegation and Israelis in Vienna, and Hilali, member of the Likud Central Committee and of the central echelons in the Likud [name and title as published], also attended the meeting. A meeting was also held 2 or 3 years ago between Faisal al-Husayni and Moshe Amiraf, one of the Likud leaders, and they came to an agreement.

As we are talking about the Likud, I would like to say that it experienced a small shock. This may attract 25 figures from the Likud Central Committee. They may not be among the prominent figures, but they have begun to group themselves and call for a dialogue and a solution taking Israel's interests into consideration.

The presence of such voices within the Likud indicates the existence of pressure and the crisis that Likud is living through. The Likud has no one position. Shamir and Arens are leading one current and Sharon, Levy, and Moda'i are leading another. There is also a small group called the princes of the Likud. This includes Ehud Olmert, Dam Meridor, Roni Milo, and Binyamin Begin, who have some realistic views but do not voice them for fear of possible repression from the hawks. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Two years into the intifadah and a year since the proclamation of independence, is the state a stone's throw away?

['Abbas] When we say the state is a stone's throw away we are speaking symbolically and mean that the objective is not far off. We must bear in mind that the Palestinian question is complex and tough and that we have a ferocious enemy to contend with. Aside from our political and diplomatic action, we have only the intifadah to draw on for our strength. To date, Arab action has not been effective. Indeed it is nonexistent. We need Arab and international efforts as well as a long drawn-out struggle until the Israelis recognize our rights.

Practically the whole world has recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independent statehood. The Israelis have yet to grant this right. The Israeli society does recognize it, but not the Israeli decisionmakers.

[Al-Jawhari] How would you assess the Soviet effort in this regard?

['Abbas] The Soviets are absoutely behind us. There is ongoing coordination between us through the Soviet-Palestinian Higher Coordination Committee.

[Al-Jawhari] And does the coordination cover the emigration of Soviet Jewry?

['Abbas] Yes, this subject came up to make sure that departing Soviet Jews do not go to Palestine. Regarding the other destinations of the Soviet Jews, this is for them to decide. We discuss with the Soviets how to see that the Jews do not go to Palestine. The problem is not to be laid at the door of the Soviets. The Americans and Europeans and others in the so-called free world have been urging the USSR to grant the Jews freedom of choice. When the Soviet Jews had the option of leaving the Soviet Union, all the doors were closed to them so they had no choice but to head for Israel. The right of choice should be indivisible. If the Jews are allowed to choose to leave the Soviet Union, they must also be permitted to choose to go the United States. But the United States was the first nation to apply a quota and thus shut the door in the face of the Soviet Jews. There are tens of thousands of Jews roaming the streets of such European cities as Vienna, Rome, and Budapest, waiting for visas to the United States. Had they wanted to go to Israel, they would have been taken in no time. This goes to show what a bankrupt movement Zionism is; it is seeking to gather Jews in Palestine using coercion and terror.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you been informed of the outcome of recent contacts between the foreign ministers of the USSR and the United States on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session?

['Abbas] The subject of the putative Palestinian-Israeli dialogue came up. The Americans unofficially spoke to the Soviets about the makeup of the Palestinian delegation and the nature of the dialogue. It emerged from talks between Shevardnadze and Baker that the Americans have backtracked. When we asked the Americans why they contradicted themselves, they replied that maybe the Soviets and Saudis had got them wrong.

[Al-Jawhari] What have the Americans retreated from?

['Abbas] They denied that they supported the PLO's right to form and announce the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the Israelis from inside and outside the occupied territories. They also denied that they said the dialogue would be open to include everything. They were playing with words. When we received the official response from the United States, we could not understand what they wanted to say.

[Al-Jawhari] In recent statements, Hani al-Hasan and 'Abdallah Hurani have said the Soviet Union is facing collapse.

['Abbas] Of course, Hurani and Hani al-Hasan do not represent the PLO's viewpoint. We say the Soviet Union is undergoing hard circumstances. But, as far as our cause is concerned, when we sit with them we talk openly and hear supportive words. We must observe that it is not the whole of the Soviet Union that is preoccupied with what is going on in Moldavia, Poland, and so forth. The Foreign Ministry works in its field of speciality and carries out its role according to the foreign policy planned by Gorbachev.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the forthcoming visit of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Moscow before the Bush-Gorbachev summit?

['Abbas] Abu-'Ammar's visit to Moscow may take place before or after the summit. No date has been fixed yet for the visit.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you been informed that the Palestine question will be on the summit's agenda?

['Abbas] Yes. The Soviets have informed us that they will discuss the Palestine question during the summit. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Have you discussed with the Soviets the issue of their relations with Israel?

['Abbas] Of course. More than once, they have asserted that they will not restore relations with Israel unless it walks along the path of peace.

[Al-Jawhari] When Baker took office as U.S. secretary of state, he declared three principles for U.S. policy in the Middle East. However, it seems that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has now reached a stalemate. So why does not the PLO ask Washington to adopt Baker's principles as the grounds for the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

['Abbas] On more than one occasion and also in a detailed memorandum, we asked them to broaden the dialogue, cancel the resolutions banning official contacts with the PLO leaders, and publicly announce their

recognition of the principles that they declare in their official statements—such as land for peace and the inadmissibility of Israeli expansionism. We still wait for the answer. They are very slow indeed and they have reasons that we do not agree with.

[Al-Jawhari] Does Washington's and Israel's refusal to let the Palestinians from the outside [of the occupied territories] take part in the peace process aim to deny those Palestinians the right to repatriation?

['Abbas] To be precise, Israel is the party that rejects this. The United States does not say that it rejects it, but blames Israel for this situation. We believe the nonrepresentation of the Palestinians of the outside does not only deny the right to repatriation, but will also finish the cause as a whole and make it an issue of the West Bank and Gaza, which can be given autonomy and things end at this point. Thus, this condition does not only drop the right to repatriation but also denies the existence of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jawhari] Despite this, some parties view the issue as if it were only a formal issue. There are some parties that question this insistence on including the PLO in the dialogue and negotiations inasmuch as the PLO will win any elections in the occupied territories and it can negotiate through its men inside.

['Abbas] This talk is designed to twist facts, and, as I said in my previous answer, to deal only with one third of the Palestinian people under occupation, denying the rights of two thirds of these people who live outside the occupied territories. However, when the cause is that of all the Palestinian people, then all the people should be represented in the dialogue and negotiations. Moreover, neither Israel nor the United States should select who represents me. An American one day asked me: If you had a choice in selecting an Israeli delegation, who are the members that you would accept? I told him Shamir, Arens, Sharon, Moda'i, Levi, Kahane, and Ge'ula Kohen. This is because I want to negotiate with those who do not recognize me and not with those who do.

[Al-Jawhari] Why has the PLO delayed its comment on developments in Lebanon following the election of President Rene Mu'awwad?

['Abbas] The Palestinian reaction was delayed to wait for the results. What happened in Lebanon is the beginning of the labor stage. We do not know where this stage will stop or where it will proceed. We hope that national accord will be achieved to guarantee the interests of all Lebanese. Now, several forces in Lebanon oppose, hamper, and reject, and every side has its own interests, or is tied to this or that side. In light of this, we decided to wait until matters became clear and crystallized to state our opinion. However, in principle, we support Lebanon's unity. We regretted the absence of Lebanon at the Casablanca summit due to the existence of two authorities.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the possibility of disarming the Palestinian fighters and militia within the framework of a comprehensive solution in Lebanon?

['Abbas] When a strong national government is established to disarm all sides, we will be the first side to disarm. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] What is your view on the possibility of restoring relations with Syria in light of the recent statements by the Palestinian and Syrian sides regarding a Palestinian delegation that would visit Damascus?

['Abbas] The normalization of relations was based on the meeting held between Abu-'Ammar and [Syrian Vice President] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Belgrade, and the meeting between brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar' in New York. We are now studying the issue of sending delegations to Syria.

[Al-Jawhari] It has not been decided yet?

['Abbas] It has been decided, but we are studying the timing. We believe that in order to normalize relations with Syria there are two points that should be settled. The first is the release from prison of Palestinian detainees; the second is that they either accept the Palestinian decisions adopted by the Casablanca summit, or that they not oppose them. There is a less important point; namely, that relations between the PLO and Syria should not take place at the expense of our relations with anyone else.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies 'Enemy' Papers' Reports

JN2111212789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, has denied that he made any press statement to which any newspaper can claim exclusivity. He explained that on 18 November he was taking part in an international seminar on peace in the Middle East in the Italian city of Milan. He stressed that he took part in a news conference called for by the Italian Center for Peace in the Middle East. The conference was attended by a large number of journalists and press agency correspondents.

He denied statements attributed to him by enemy newspapers and said those statements were contrary to the facts and constituted a complete distortion of the positions he expressed in the news conference and in his speech to the seminar on the same day, 18 November concerning the independence declaration issued by the Palestine National Council last November. Unless linked to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, the elections will only provide cover for Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

In the speech, the substantial differences between the position of the Labor Party and that of the PLO were also highlighted. The party refuses to recognize the PLO as a sole legitimate representative of our people and also

refuses to recognize our people's right to self-determination and independence. Its position on the proposed preliminary dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli delegations is based on the denial of the PLO's representative role, of the importance of the international conference, and of holding the dialogue on the basis of an open agenda and without preconditions.

'Arafat Attends Romanian Party Congress Opening

JN2111181789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine, participated in the opening session of the 14th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party in Bucharest yesterday. Brother Abu-'Ammar was seated at the main platform beside Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian president and secretary general of the party, along with heads of foreign delegations and leaders of the party. The Romanian president embraced his grand guest Abu-'Ammar amid cheers and applause by members of the congress.

Brother Abu-'Ammar arrived in Bucharest at dawn yesterday at an official invitation by the Romanian president to take part in the opening session of the Romanian Communist Party congress.

Egypt

Mubarak, Vasiliou on Bilateral Ties, Cyprus Issue

NC2111141689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak is hopeful that a settlement to the Cyprus problem will be reached, and he affirmed that Egypt is ready to assist in this domain and work toward that end in conjunction with all the parties concerned, particularly the UN secretary general and the United Nations.

President Mubarak and Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou addressed Egyptian and Cypriot reporters following their talks here this morning.

President Mubarak stressed that there is absolutely no difference of opinion between Egypt and Cyprus. He said he looks forward to further cooperation between the two countries in various fields, adding that he and President Vasiliou had agreed to this. He welcomed the Cypriot president on his first visit to Egypt and said that their talks had dealt with bilateral relations, a number of international issues, and the Cyprus problem.

Concluding his statement, President Mubarak underscored the strong relations between Egypt and Cyprus, whose people are linked by long-standing historic ties.

For his part, President Vasiliou expressed his full satisfaction with his talks with President Mubarak. He said his meeting with President Mubarak was extremely fruitful and reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations. He added: I expressed to President Mubarak Cyprus' appreciation for and satisfaction with Egypt's continued support for our quest to reach a solution to the Cyprus problem. I was pleased to hear the Egyptian Government and president's readiness to facilitate the resolution of the problem, and not just to assist in achieving the unity of Cyprus. President Vasiliou added: We view Egypt's support for the unity of Cyprus as extremely important.

The Cypriot president noted that he and President Mubarak had reviewed ways of promoting bilateral relations, for which there are great opportunities. He referred to the great progress Egypt has made in the fields of industry, tourism, and agriculture. He said: Joint cooperation and work could further benefit the two sidesand this is actually what we agreed to do, and we will take specific steps in this respect. The Cypriot president thanked President Mubarak for the welcome and support accorded him.

Egyptians To Replace Health Workers in Libya

JN2111175189 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Nov 89 pp 1, 10

[By Nisrin 'Azab]

[Excerpt] Egypt and Libya have agreed to replace the foreign labor force in all Libyan medical and health institutions with Egyptian workers within 2 years.

This was announced yesterday by Health Minister Dr Raghib Duwaydar who said that one-half of this labor force will be replaced within 6 months through official secondment according to a contract between the Egyptian and Libyan Governments. The contract will protect the rights of physicians and other assistant health workers.

According to the agreement, Dr Duwaydar said, all Egyptian drugs will be considered automatically registered in Libya, and the Egyptian pharmaceutical research and control authority will control all foreign drugs entering the Libyan market.

In a news conference to explain the Egyptian-Libyan medical agreement, the minister said that 1.5 million Libyan dinars' worth of Egyptian drugs will be exported to Libya by the end of December. [passage omitted]

Egypt Receives 'Official' Palestinian Reply

NC2111200089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has received the official Palestinian reply to the proposals made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was informed of the Palestinian reply during a meeting tonight with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani who arrived in Cairo from Tunis yesterday carrying the PLO reply.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and on the Palestinian side by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian vice ambassador and Fatah representative in Cairo.

Dr al-Baz met with Jamal al-Surani, Sa'id Kamal, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah prior to their meeting with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid.

Following his 90-minute meeting with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid, Jamal al-Surani said that he handed the PLO reply to James Baker's proposals to the deputy prime minister and foreign minister who will in turn present it to President Husni Mubarak. He added: The coming stage will witness greater activity and movement at various levels until we reach the negotiating table of an international conference to recognize the [Palestinian people's] legitimate rights. He stressed that this requires greater efforts.

Replying to a question on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, he said: The dialogue continues and has not stopped. We

are committed to the dialogue with the United States until we meet at one table, that of the international conference.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that he has received the Palestinian reply and that Egypt will convey it to the United States. He added that consultations and cooperation between Egypt and the PLO will continue.

Al-Surani arrived in Cairo yesterday as an envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to convey the Palestinian reply to the Egyptian leadership.

Commentary on Egyptian Workers in Iraq

JN2111103089 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers in Egypt and the Arab homeland: The issue of the Egyptian workers in Iraq continues to escalate on various levels with an increase in the number of dead, and with Egyptian officials emphasizing that the deaths were due to acts of violence. Figures, testimonies, and medical reports, of which there are many, prove the Egyptian workers in Iraq have also been included in the terroristic plan of the fascist Saddam regime. This has led to the liquidation of 1,052 workers in less than 10 months according to preliminary statistics, which also indicate that the number of dead could in fact be far more than this figure.

Despite the hideous nature of Saddam's crimes, they are neither new nor the first of their kind, considering the many crimes that have been perpetrated and are still being perpetrated by this regime, which is bloody in its structure, policy, relations, and dealings, even with the sons of the Iraqi people. This regime of Saddam's, since it seized power, has fabricated a devastating war against the Islamic Revolution in Iran, created several hotbeds of tension in the region, and sought to split and weaken Arab ranks. It has always adopted the policy of explosions, killings, and terrorism to remain in power and continue its tyranny against Iraq. It will not take long for anyone who reviews the records of such tyrant rulers to realize their true political, economic, and human crimes, whether regarding their war against the friendly Iranian people or their war against the Iraqi people and their nationalist forces. In both wars, the Iraqi people were the main target. The objective of Saddam's regime was to subjugate these people, distract them, and use them to carry out its conspiracies and personal whims, and consequently to isolate them from their Arab nation and major causes, foremost of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Iraqi regime was not satisfied with the catastrophes it inflicted on the Iraqi people as a result of the crimes of the crazy war against Iran—a war that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Immediately after the end of this war, this regime managed to wage another internal war that is unprecedented in history. It killed hundreds of thousands more people, using the most hideous means of genocide, including chemical gas. It also destroyed cities and villages on the heads of their citizens and expelled thousands of people to the desert and to concentration camps. These facts have been confirmed by all the competent Arab and international organizations.

After Saddam's regime failed to export its means and instruments of killing to Lebanon through its attempts to support the divisionist clique, it directed these means against the Egyptian workers who went to Iraq—due to living and economic conditions—and who made great contributions to development in Iraq. Further, thousands of Egyptian workers fell victim to the terrorism of the Iraqi rulers. This time too, these rulers were not able to deny this charge. Egyptian medical sources confirmed that acts of terrorism were the cause of death of those workers. Egyptian workers returning to Egypt have also confirmed this, and pointed out that they can no longer endure the practices of the Iraqi regime's henchmen. The Iraqi rulers' thirst for blood encourages them to perpetrate one crime after another even when the victims are workers who are building and developing Iraq, and contributing to rebuilding the ruins that were left by the tyrant Saddam.

Egyptian officials said: Egyptian workers in Iraq were finally rewarded by returning to Cairo in coffins.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Saudi Military Delegation

LD2111143989 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Staff Major General Sa'd al-Muwayni', chief of operations of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces and the delegation accompanying him, who is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Jabir Receives Delegation

LD2111161189 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col Abu-Bakr Y. Jabir received yesterday the Saudi military delegation headed by Staff General Sa'ad al-Muwayni', chief of the Commission of Operations and Training in the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces, who is curently on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Military Delegation Departs

LD2111144589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Staff Major General Sa'd al-Muwayni', chief of Operations of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces, and the

delegation accompanying him left Tripoli today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart

LD2111132289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1137 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—The brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met this morning with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister of Pakistan, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting addressed bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

Joint Committee Meets

LD2111210789 Tripoli JANA in English 1819 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Al-Harth [November], JANA—Arab Maghreb Union Pool—This morning the sessions of the Libyan Arab-Pakistani joint committee began in Tripoli for cooperation between great Jamahiriyah and Pakistan in their 11th ordinary session.

The opening session was attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan the foreign minister of Pakistan.

During this round, the committee will discuss bilateral relations and the means to back and support them in various fields between the two countries.

The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau addressed the opening session welcoming the guest delegation. He said: "The convening of the joint Libyan Arab-Pakistani committee in its time confirms Great Jamahiriyah and Pakistan's keenness to continue its successful work to enhance bilateral relations." He wished success for the 11th round.

On his part, the Pakistani foreign minister gave a similar speech asserting Pakistan keenness to promote its relations with Great Jamahiriyah's people saying that the committee's work was successful in promoting bilateral relations in various fields.

Spanish Communist Party Delegation Visits

LD2211001189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—The Spanish Communist Party delegation expressed its solidarity and support for the Libyan Arab people's struggle against imperialist forces and condemned the psychological war and economic and technical blockade against it by imperialism and supported the Great Jamahiriyah's absolute sovereign right over the Gulf of Sidra.

The Spanish Communist Party delegation, which was invited to the Great Jamahiriyah by the General People's Congress' Secretariat, also expressed, via a press release published in Tripoli today at the end of its visit, its support for the Libyan Arab people's legitimate and just right to compensation for the crimes of killing and deportation committed by the Italian colonialists during their occupation of Libya.

The press release affirmed the need to make the Mediterranean a lake of peace and security and to remove from it all foreign fleets as well as military bases from the region.

The Spanish Communist Party delegation's statement expressed its firm support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their freedom and establish an independent state upon all the Palestinian Arab soil. The press release salutes the growing popular revolution carried out by the Palestinian people's generation of anger in occupied Palestine against the Zionist gangs of occupation.

The press release hails the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union as a step toward achieving comprehensive arab unity.

The press release affirmed the need to consolidate the struggle against apartheid regimes in Africa as well as its solidarity with the Namibian people's struggle for freedom and independence upon its soil.

Political Editor on Gorbachev-Bush Meeting

LD2111204889 Tripoli JANA in English 1628 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The French newspaper "LE JOURNAL DIMANCHE" said that U.S. and Soviet authorities had taken extraordinary measure on the security level on the occasion of the Soviet-U.S. summit in Malta.

The newspaper pointed out that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi did not feel any embarassment to direct his harsh criticism of such a summit.

The newspaper explained that a red line was established between the Soviets and the Americans via satellites and that the listening divisions in both the U.S. and the Soviet Union had begun a joint cooperation. Also a decision was taken to declare a state of emergency amongst the U.S. 6th Fleet and the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean and the U.S. assigned 90 fighter aircraft and 25 guard aircraft and that both countries decided to dispatch teams of frogmen and some submarines.

JANA's political editor commented on that saying: "The humans whose eyes were blinded by the show of force cannot take rightness as a way, for they are driven by a mind which sees things in one eye, and in particular the American side which today represents a mentality guided by a tradition which historically based upon the

spirit of invasion, killing and absolute sadism—which is being proved by a series of things upon which the American history was based."

The editor asserted that the U.S. Administration had surpassed all its claims on the concept of human rights and democracy, such claims which turned out to be the lie of the era and its falsehood were exposed. The proof upon that its excessive selfishness, which did not pay any attention to another humane opinion. [sentence as received] It forgot, or pretended to forget, that the real force to be proud of is that which leans, in its approaches and dicta, upon the will of the masses and the power of the might of the nations, which believe in their right in living...the leader of the revolution, in his statement on the convening of the Gorbachev-Bush summit said: Such a meeting in this publicised form, will be a meeting that disturbs the nations of the Mediterranean Sea. And a meeting on a naval vessel is an ugly way of directing, which reminds us of the meetings of the leaders of first and second World Wars as they were sharing the world.

The leader said: "We support the meeting, between the great states, but the objection is on the location and the form, which give a feeling of disgust."

The editor added: "So here we see, and with us the world public opinion sees, such an exhibition which does not express the spirit of culture and progress represented in the amassing and the bleeding of military potentials which provoke, discuss, and ridicule.

"When we criticise degrading aspects, we want human behaviour to avoid behaviors that do not serve values and ideals of human civilisation. That is so despite the existance of cowards and the fainthearted who interpret the noble stances from the point of view of their weakness and inability to face the wrong. Those who interpretted the leader's criticism of such summit as an attack against it. But the behaviours we criticised had become present and under the eyes of the public opinion as a whole."

The political editor concluded by saying: "Our criticism now is based upon logic and the power of evidence and truth and supported on that by proofs declared by those who had provided them themselves."

Sudan

Chadian Withdrawal From Darfur Region Demanded

EA2011214389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today issued a press statement on the contents of a statement issued at the beginning of this month by the Chadian authorities. Here is the text of the statement:

At the beginning of this month, the Chadian authorities issued a statement concerning skirmishes which took place between their forces and the Chadian opposition inside Sudanese territory, pointing to the so-called Libyan Islamic Legion, and Libya's use of Sudanese territory with the aim of destabilizing Chad.

Sudan, following the National Salvation revolution, has spoken frankly about its earnest efforts to improve relations between itself and all neighboring countries, including Chad. Sudan was sincere about all its positions and commitments. It has stressed, in an unequivocable manner, the Chadian issue and its stand vis-a-vis the opposition, emanating from the defunct multiparty regime, which the revolution found as a reality and a fact, compelling it to deal with the opposition in a clear and frank manner. [sentence as heard] It therefore announced its peaceful position and strove with all means to bring together the brothers to solve their problems. It committed itself not to allow the opposition to launch any hostile action from within Sudanese territory. In confirmation of this, the (?opposition forces) were withdrawn to more than 200 km within Sudanese territory.

We wish to stress that what the statement said about battles that took place on the borders was not factual. Indeed, all the skirmishes were deep inside Sudanese territory, well over 150 km inside the area which was mentioned by name in the Chadian statement, namely the area of (Kurmai).

We wish to confirm that the so-called [words indistinct] does not exist inside the Sudanese territory. [Words indistinct] Libya any support through Sudanese territory for the Chadian opposition. Indeed, it has been upholding its commitments to the Chadian authorities, and has accepted the peaceful solution.

Sudan demands the Chadian authorities withdraw all their forces now present inside Darfur Region, in confirmation of the policy of good neighborliness, which we rely on as a firm principle in our dealings. In addition, we ask them to help us to solve this problem without any detraction from the sovereignty of the two fraternal states.

Sudan wishes to confirm its readiness to make an all-out and sincere effort to bring conciliation between the disputing parties, on the basis of its principled stand of pursuing dialogue as a means of solving all problems between brothers.

Long live united, strong Africa. Long live Sudan as a supporter and pillar of unity and amity between brothers. Here ends the statement.

Chadian Presidency Minister Delivers Message

AB2211081289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Nov (SUNA)—Mr Korom Ahmed, the Chadian minister delegate to the Presidency for general supervision, arrived in the country today. He told the press that he had brought a letter from President

Habre to Al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. The Chadian official was met at the airport by Colonel 'Abd al-'Alim Mahmud, secretary general of the RCC, and Mr Ibrahim Muhammad Ali, secretary of the Foreign Ministry and his excellency the Chadian ambassador in Khartoum.

Jimmy Carter, SPLA To Discuss Peace Effort

EA1811183589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has said he will meet a Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] delegation in Nairobi and review with it what can be done by the movement to supplement government efforts for peace in Sudan.

Mr Carter said he will meet officials of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council to be briefed on the situation in general and food production in particular. He said the Global 2000 program, which is under his sponsorship, would make it possible for 3,000 [words indistinct] to work in the production of sorghum and wheat.

The former American president also told SUNA he would meet Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and his aides in Addis Ababa, (?today) before attending the talks in Nairobi.

He said he will join the talks, which will take place in Nairobi next Monday [20 November] between representatives of the Ethiopian Government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front. They will be an extension of the talks held last month in Atlanta. Mr Carter added that he had met Tigray People's Liberation Front representatives yesterday in London. [passage omitted]

Carter Meets With Al-Bashir

EA1811204689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Nov (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter left Khartoum today for Addis Ababa after having talked with Command Council Chairman Gen 'Umar al-Bashir on peace and relief issues. [Words indistinct] had a 24-hour stop [words indistinct] briefed Gen al-Bashir on his mediation between the Eritrean rebel factions and the Ethiopian government.

Gen al-Bashir has confirmed to Mr Carter Sudan's commitment to the continuation of relief operations to the needy citizens in the south.

Gen 'Umar has stressed his government's readiness to meet the rebel movement anywhere any time for peace talks. Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has told Mr Carter that peace is a central issue for his government. The question of the south should be resolved only through peaceful dialogue, Gen al-Bashir said.

Gen al-Bashir said former U.S. President Carter has described the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace as "excellent." [Words indistinct] for peace talks with the (?rebel movement) Gen al-Bashir said the recommendations of the conference would be (?the) agenda for future talks with the rebels.

The Command Council chairman has pointed out during his meeting with the former U.S. president that Operation Lifeline (?should) [words indistinct] to help the war affected people in the south there has to be a cease-fire and an end to the state of tension so that the Lifeline Operation should continue, Gen al-Bashir told the former U.S. president. He said the outbreak of military offensives jeopardize the lives of people involved in the relief transportation.

Gen al-Bashir has outlined his government's declared unilateral cease-fires and the rebel violations in this regard.

Mr Carter said he would be meeting with rebel movement leadership in Addis Ababa within the moves aiming to bring peace to Sudan.

Sudanese Official Rejects Military Solutions

AB1911220989 Paris AFP in French 2113 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Nov (AFP)—Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shummu said the problem in southern Sudan "could not be solved militarily" in an interview published by the Cairo weekly MAYO in its Monday [20 November] morning edition.

According to Mr Shummu, the problem of the south is a political one, and the Sudanese Government "holds the principle of solution through peaceful negotiation." The minister reiterated the Sudanese Government's accusations against Ethiopia, saying that the fall of Kurmuk, a locality of southeast Sudan which fell in the hands of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in October, was preceded by a heavy shelling of the town from Ethiopian territory.

He reproached th? United States and the EEC for putting "economic pressure" on the Sudanese Government, while according to him, "it is rather on the SPLA that the pressure should be directed."

Mr Shummu, however, described relations between Sudan and the United States as "friendly." "We rely on them for assistance in several sectors and they come to our aid," he stated, adding, however, that relations between Khartoum and the USSR, which were "cold" some time ago, have begun to improve. The Sudanese Government today accepted the principle of a meeting with the SPLA leadership in Nairobi on 1 December.

Government Welcomes Talks With SPLA

EA2011181289 Khartoum SUNA in French 0925 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Nov (SUNA)—The National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] is pleased about the agreement of Garang's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] to participate in negotiations between the government and the movement, which will take place 10 December next in Nairobi without prior conditions.

In a statement published Sunday evening in Khartoum, the NSRCC reviewed its efforts to achieve peace in the country following the declaration of a cease-fire by the government, except in the case of self-defense, and then discussed the meeting last August in Addis Ababa between representatives of the government and Garang's movement.

The second stage, the statement continued, was the holding of the national dialogue conference on peace last October. The resulting recommendations, which were ratified by the government's executive body [word indistinct] represented the government's official program on peace.

The third stage, according to the statement, was demonstrated by sending delegations to neighboring African and Arab countries, and also to other fraternal countries of the world, carrying messages illustrating the unanimous agreement of the Sudanese people to a peaceful solution of the southern problem.

The recent stage was demonstrated in the government's agreement to the proposal put forward by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during his recent visit to Sudan to hold a new round of negotiations without preconditions between representatives of the government and of the movement, the statement added.

The statement thanked former President Carter because of his moves, which coincided with the principal position of the revolution regarding the problem of peace, calling for the achievement of a peaceful settlement without preconditions, as well as assuring the interest of the revolution in protecting the unity, stability and security of the country.

It should be noted that on Sunday the NSRCC received a message from former President Jimmy Carter, the contents of which touched on the agreement of Garang's movement to hold talks with the government. The former American president met General 'Umar al-Bashir in Khartoum recently, as well as Colonel Garang in Addis Ababa, on holding common talks in Addis Ababa on 1 December. He also informed Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi of the agreement, and he also welcomed the peace negotiations.

SPLA Forces Reportedly Close to Ad Damazin

EA2011194089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpts] On the part of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], the commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has already sent sufficient force to Dondoro to support the action of the patriotic and nationalistic elements in Dondoro. The SPLA force that has just arrived in Dondoro is commanded by alternate Commander Rustam Ali Mustafa, under the overall command of the SPLA chief of staff, commander William Nyuan Bany. [passage omitted]

The presence of alternate Cdr Rustam Ali Mustafa around Dondoro is meant by the SPLA High Command to reassure officers, NCO's and men in Dondoro and Ad Damazin military area, to reassure those who want to talk with the SPLA to join the SPLA but are sure, that alternate Cdr Rustam Ali Mustafa is now in the Dondoro area, and he is ready to receive all those wishing to join the SPLA [as heard]. He will also continue dialogue with the forces in Dondoro and Ad Damazin—we appeal to all patriotic and nationalistic officers, NCO's and men in Dondoro, Ad Damazin, and other garrisons to join alternate Cdr Rustam Ali Mustafa immediately, and for those who remained to continue the resistance.

Finally, we appeal to the youth in Blue Nile, Gazirah, Khartoum, and other nearby areas to join comrade Rustam Ali Mustafa for military training, so that the youth participate effectively in the revolutionary armed struggle and in the realization of the new united democratic Sudan. This is the time; we have come close enough to Ad Damazin—only 15 km. You, the revolutionary youth, join now, now.

SPLA Alleges 21 Soldiers Executed by Junta

EA2011183489 (Clandestine) Radio of Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources in the Army General headquarters in Khartoum have confirmed that 21 soldiers were summarily executed in cold blood by the Junta in Khartoum on trumped-up charges they were supporters of the SPLA.

This incident took place a few days ago outside Khartoum. The victims of this callous act were never investigated, nor were they even given a chance for a trial.

Bahrain

Prime Minister on GCC, Area Concerns

JN2111161689 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Nov 89 p 10

[Interview with Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Ibn-Salman al Khalifah by ARAB TIMES editor in chief Ahmad al-Jarallah; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] Q: "In two months we will enter into the decade of the nineties, and three weeks later the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit will be held in Muscat. Is there anything you would like to say about this?"

A: "The timing of the GCC leaders' meeting in Muscat is very important because of the existing situation in the area and other considerations.

"I believe that the results of the Muscat summit will have a special flavour, due to indications of full awareness by the GCC leaders of the advent of the nineties, which requires preparations to confront the new stage.

"In my opinion, we must seek to realise what the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd, meant when he stressed the need to further endeavour to link the interests of the people in the region." [passage omitted]

Q: "You are saying that there are indications that the GCC leaders are looking forward to meeting in Muscat to discuss new ideas?"

A: "Yes, indeed. The reason is that the time factor is becoming more important to us, especially because 1992 will witness the emergence of a Third World power, which is a unified Western Europe as embodied in its common market. What's more, some European countries are crawling to join this market, in the wake of political openness that has swept through them.

"To strengthen the GCC states through an interlinkage of interests increases the power of the people in these countries, and to implement a policy of openness between these will create a parallel power that will enable our countries to move forward with vim and confidence, particularly since this could not lead to separation between the GCC and world economy where the benefit is reciprocal." [passage omitted]

"I say we must co-ordinate our efforts to be able to set up industries, construct houses and start services, such as banking and financial services. Even giant companies must co-ordinate their efforts, such as civil aviation carriers and all similar public services. This is because our target is to enable GCC citizens to move about freely, enjoying the freedom made available to them, living where they will, working at what they wish and relishing a situation of utter openness. [passage omitted]

"Even expatriates must be able to enjoy the privileges of the new situation by being able to have easy access to the countries in the region so long as they carried official residence permits. At the same time efforts must continue to further control the security situation against any potential dangers." [passage omitted]

Q: "Do you think that the Gulf is no longer a bed of tension?"

A: "The tense situation has ended. However, there may still be very small beds of tension, but these too are bound to disappear.

"This is because the Iraq-Iran war is over, as we know, ushering in a new phase of consequential dimension and new burdens. Hence the importance of the Muscat summit where we can utilise the current stage of tranquility and peace and endeavour to maintain, protect and reconsider our early calculations in order to adapt them to the needs of the current situation.

"In my view, the most important thing that we wish to consolidate is the existing relations between the GCC countries, thereby to immunise the GCC bloc against penetration by any foreign or international party counting on differences of opinion or stance, and to confront them with an unanimous view and a unified stance.

"The riches of this area are profuse and all that is needed is perfect co-ordination between the existing systems, whereby it would be possible to better utilise all the riches of the area, and make it possible for all people to benefit from this process unhampered by unhealthy sensitivities." [passage omitted]

Q. "What about the economic position in Bahrain?"

A: "Bahrain's economy is certainly improving and we can feel that.

"Bahrain has recently hosted many economic conferences and meetings, and these are indications of the improving economy. This could be a result of the improvement in the whole region and the world markets after tension centres in the world and other crises have subsided.

"Our resources in Bahrain are limited and not the same as resources available in other Gulf states. Through linking our interests together, we will be able to benefit from many opprtunities and our brothers in the region can similarly utilise opportunities available in Bahrain.

"It should be realised that whenever the economy improves and prosperity increases, stability and security are achieved.

"The six GCC states are certainly interested in achieving stability in order to close any gap that some people with vested interests may penetrate through to harm this Gulf alliance which attracted world attention.

"Thus, our economy is improving and we have many opportunities that we can utilise, specially tourist facilities in the country.

"We are currently trying to utilise such opportunities and I have asked the Interior Minister to adopt more flexible measures in welcoming tourists from states in the region, particularly residents.

"We want to facilitate freedom of travel to Bahrain. We wanted to implement this long ago, but we opted to delay it a little until the security situations became more stable and at present we feel that things are comfortable."

Q: "What about Lebanese affairs, has peace been established there? Has Saudi Arabia succeeded in keeping the threat of civil war away from Lebanon through the al-Ta'if meetings."

A: [Passage omitted] "The point arrived at through the al-Ta'if meetings, would not have been achieved without the important role played by Saudi Arabia in this issue.

"I believe that the results achieved by King Fahd in this context were surprising.

"All the reports had indicated that it was difficult for any one to be involved in the Lebanese crisis and come out nearer to what actually happened, particularly by electing a president, parliament speaker and asking a man to form a cabinet.

"This has certainly taken the Lebanese crisis to the point that keeps it away from any threat of civil war. [passage omitted]

Q: "Do you think its high time to restore relations between the states of the region and Iran?"

A: "Iran is showing a desire for restoring relations with states in the region. But before that, any international or external side must understand that when they knock at the doors of this region, they will hear only one answer and see people similar in thinking. This is in order to make them realise that they can't enter through windows and should come through the proper way, the main gate. Such an arrangement can be provided only through the unified decision of the GCC states.

"We must have relations with Iran, but it's important to feel comfortable towards any cooperation and make goodwill prevail. The fact that no one wants to interfere in internal afairs of others should be emphasised. Relations should be good.

"Visits with Iran are exchanged by officials in some states in the region. Iran has been showing friendly gestures, and we have been replying with the same.

"It's important that good intentions should be shown clearly.

"In the end, geographic location compels us to have friendly relations with our neighbours. [passage omitted]

Visiting Egyptian Minister Leaves for Muscat

JN1511125489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Manama, 15 Nov (WAKH)—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr left Manama today for Muscat following an official 3-day visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states.

During the visit, the Egyptian interior minister held talks with Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah on coordination and cooperation between the two countries in various security fields.

He was seen off by the Bahraini interior minister and Egyptian Ambassador to Bahrain Nabil Mustafa Ibrahim.

Oman

Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Visits

Meets Omani Counterpart

NC1511080089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, Iranian heavy industries minister who arrived in Muscat yesterday at the head of a high-level delegation, held the first round of official talks with his Omani counterpart regarding the progress of the joint commission of the two countries and on seeking ways and means to expand bilateral commercial and industrial relations.

During this meeting, decisions were made to increase facilities to provide impetus to the commercial firms of the two countries. It was also decided that the second session of the joint commission will be held in Tehran in the month of Dey [22 December-20 January]. The minister of heavy industries is currently in Oman to participate in the opening of Muscat's third international fair.

Meets Minister of State

JN1511194889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah received at his office this morning Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian, Iranian heavy industries minister. During the meeting, relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common concern were reviewed. His Excellency Ambassador Ahmad Ibn-Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency Ambassador Marhun Ibn-Ahmad al-Marhun, head of the minister's office; and the Iranian minister's delegation attended the meeting.

Hoseynian and his delegation paid a visit early today to the al-Rasul Corporation industrial area, where he viewed an exhibition of Omani products. He also toured

several factories and heard detailed descriptions of their operations and production methods.

Discusses 'Biased' GCC Resolution

LD1511180589 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Hadi Nejad-Hoseinian, on an official visit to Oman, today discussed ways of expanding Tehran-Muscat economic ties with Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

Al-Alawi confirmed Iran's position against a biased resolution issued at the end of a recent conference of the information ministers of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council in Muscat regarding the Iran-Iraq border disputes.

He promised that necessary precautions would be taken from now on in order to prevent the repetition of such cases which he said did not demonstrate the real position of the (P)GCC states.

Meanwhile, head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Alinaqi Khamushi [name as received] who is also in Muscat met with his Omani counterpart today. The two discussed commercial and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Somali Defense Minister, Delegation Visit

Qabus Receives President's Message

JN1811172789 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, may God preserve him, has received a written message from His Excellency Mohammed Siad Barre, president of the Somalia Democratic Republic. His Highness Fahd Ibn-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for Legal Affairs, received the message during his reception at his office this morning of Hussein Sheikh Abdirahman, minister of defense of the Somalia Democratic Republic, who—along with an accompanying delegation—are currently visiting Oman. During the meeting, the talk dealt with bilateral fraternal relations and the means of bolstering the aspects of cooperation. Likewise, a number of Arab and African issues and issues of common concern were reviewed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ibn-Hamad al-Battasi, secretary general of the Ministry of Defense; Ambassador 'Abd-al- Rahman Sarih, director general of the Arab Department at the Somali Foreign Ministry; and Mohamed Eqal Nur, Somali ambassador to Oman.

Deputy Premier Receives Minister

JN1911141289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahr Ibn-Taymur Al Bu-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, today received at his office in the (Bayt al-Farj) military camp Dr Hussein Sheikh Abdirahman, defense minister of the Somalia Democratic Republic, and the accompanying military delegation. They exchanged views on the good relations between the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Interior Minister Arrives in Muscat

JN1511210889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr arrived in the country this afternoon on an official visit to the Sultanate of several days.

Upon arrival, the minister stated that he will convey to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id the greetings of his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said that his visit to the Sultanate arises from the brotherly relations between the two fraternal peoples. During the visit, he will discuss security cooperation between Egypt and the Sultanate.

The minister and his delegation were received by Interior Minister Badr Ibn-Sa'ud Ibn-Harib; General Sa'id Ibn-Rashid al-Kalbani, the general inspector of police and customs; Shaykh 'Amir Ibn-Shuwayn al-Husini, under secretary of the Interior Ministry; the deputy general inspector of police and customs; the Egyptian ambassador to the Sultanate; a number of ranking Omani police officers; and Interior Ministry officials.

WAKH Reports Sultan Qabus National Day Speech

JN1911082989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Muscat, 18 Nov (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman has welcomed the convening of the 10th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit in Muscat on 18 December.

In a speech marking the ninth anniversary of Oman's national day today, Sultan Qabus expressed pride at having the opportunity to meet his brother leaders of the GCC member states in the Sultanate of Oman. He affirmed his country's eagerness to do its utmost to render the summit a success in order to contribute toward bolstering joint action and enhancing the steady development of the march of the GCC member states.

Sultan Qabus of Oman paid tribute to the positive role that has been played by the GCC since its inception as an effective framework that has been involved in good offices to achieve a durable peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict and entrench peace and stability in the region. He also praised the effective efforts of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis and the positive progress made in tackling the Lebanese crisis.

Sultan Qabus appealed to the Lebanese to cooperate with the president-elect to restore peace and amity to the Lebanese territory so that Lebanon can launch a new era of unity and stability.

On the Palestine question, Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id affirmed his backing and support for the Palestinian peace initiatives and for all serious efforts and endeavors to attain a just and durable solution to this question—a solution that would lift the yoke of occupation imposed on the Palestinian people, that would also relieve them of all forms of injustice and suffering, and restore to them their national rights to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

Egyptians, Iraqis Arrested Following 'Clashes'

JN2111181389 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] The Iraqi authorities have arrested scores of Egyptians and Iraqis for questioning following clashes between the two sides in Baghdad. The clashes took place following the soccer game between Egypt and Algeria.

This was stated by Labib Ibrahim, Egyptian charge d'affaires in Baghdad. He said one Egyptian national was killed and 70 others injured in the clashes.

Conference on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy

JN2011144389 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 20, INA—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn works of the second scientific conference of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization start here tomorrow.

Dr Mahdi al-Badri, member of the information committee, stated that the conference would discuss over three days more than 250 researches.

He added that the conference's program included basic axes in the peaceful uses of the atomic energy dealing with environment, nuclear installations, prevention from radioactivity, the radioactive pharmaceutical products and their applications in the nuclear medicine besides other researches.

It is worth mentioning that the first conference of Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization was held on April 7 1975 under the motto of the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the scientific purposes and economic development.

'Izzat Ibrahim Speaks

JN2111191789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the meetings of the second scientific conference of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Agency started today under the motto of "The Atom and Peace."

Deputizing for the president to patronize the conference was 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

RCC Deputy Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim delivered a speech which he began by conveying President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the participants and his hopes on the success of the conference. [passage omitted]

'Izzat Ibrahim said well-known regional and international evil forces colluded in their historic aggression on our people's aspirations for progress and prosperity and worked to hamper our people's new cultural project by waging a large-scale war on our country, in which our people fought bravely for 8 years and offered many sacrifices.

The RCC vice chairman stressed that if the Zionist entity had succeeded at that time, it and those supporting it must be careful not to delude themselves into thinking what happened in 1981 can be repeated.

He said the Israeli aggression affirmed what we had believed and stressed over and over again—that one of the most important goals of this war was to prevent the new Iraqi cultural renaissance, of which the Tammuz reactor was a symbol. He pointed out that the war had failed to realize the goal of hindering progress, growth, and construction in Iraq.

He also highlighted Iraq's efforts and calls to stop the war, establish a just and comprehensive peace, cooperate with regional and international efforts, and accept the International Security Council Resolution No 598, which Iran rejected at first and accepted only after its invading armies were chased into the depths of its own territories, and when it became clear beyond the shadow of a doubt where the odds and influence lay.

The RCC vice chairman affirmed the leadership's support and interest in nuclear energy. It provides this field with all it needs in the way of facilities for scientific research, and places all necessary requirements at the disposal of its researchers. He pointed out Iraq's cooperation with and support for the International Atomic Energy Agency out of its strong belief in its role of transferring nuclear technology, while at the same time preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

'Izzat Ibrahim regretted that Iraq sees countries which claim to be interested in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons while turning a blind eye to the Israeli entity's possession of such weapons. They even cooperate with it economically, politically, and technologically, which increases its aggression toward the Palestinian people and its denial of their inalienable, historic rights.

He affirmed that the escalating arms buildup of the Zionist entity and the dangerous development in its weapons dealings with South Africa have begun to threaten peace and security in the region and the world in a way which one cannot be quiet about much longer.

He said the international responsibility of those who ally themselves with the Zionist entity forces them to present evidence of the honesty of their intentions and calls for disarmament. The first step of this is to remove the aggressive Zionist entity's nuclear claw.

He said this conference comes as an extension of the meeting and cooperation of researchers and scientists to exchange information and familiarize themselves with new developments in nuclear energy applications. He added that the coming stage requires joint efforts to make up for what the war prevented us from gaining and to bridge the gap between us and the developed countries. [passage omitted]

U.S. Offers PLO 'Arrangement' on Delegation

TA2211103089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, 'Oded Zaray, Yo'av Qarni, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Reliable diplomatic sources in Tel Aviv have learned that the United States has offered the PLO a "quiet arrangement." Under this arrangement, the PLO will compose the Palestinian delegation to the meeting with Israel, but it will not announce the fact publicly. The PLO would then be satisfied with making a more vague public statement on the issue.

Egypt concentrated its efforts on an attempt to persuade the PLO to modify its response, in order to remove any obstacles that might have made it difficult for the United States to welcome the PLO's answer.

According to these sources, the United States is expected to interpret the PLO's announcement (as it did the Israeli Cabinet resolution) to be an affirmative response to Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan. This is true, of course, if the PLO would indeed limit itself to issuing preliminary assumptions regarding guarantees—as sources in Jerusalem last night were confident it would—without clearly making the acceptance of the U.S. document conditional to receiving these guarantees.

The term "their opinion" in the fourth clause of the Baker plan ("The Palestinians will be free to raise issues that relate to their opinion on how to make elections and negotiations succeed") may permit the United States to accede to the PLO demand for an "open agenda." The organization's representatives to the talks would be able to claim that any issue, including the acceptance of the principle of territories for peace, can help the process succeed, in their opinion.

The PLO demand to invite the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council to the opening of the dialogue is mainly meant to raise the level of the talks, and not as Prime Minister Shamir has said, to downgrade their importance by sending lower-level officials instead of foreign ministers. The Baker plan stipulates that an Israeli delegation will conduct a dialogue with a Palestinian delegation, but the document does not stipulate that only these two delegations can participate in the meeting. [passage omitted]

A senior political source told HA'ARETZ that the Egyptian leadership is greatly disappointed by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's positions, and elements who recommended that Rabin be invited to Cairo were criticized. Following their meeting, Egyptian President Mubarak had expected Rabin to support the dissolution of the Israeli Government if the Likud rejected the Egyptian invitation to participate in a meeting with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo. An additional cause for grievance against the defense minister is the harsh measures imposed on the residents of Bayt Sahur following their refusal to pay taxes. [passage omitted]

Nusaybah on Baker Plan, Government-in-Exile

TA2111155789 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 20 Nov 89 p 16

[Interview with Sari Nusaybah, Bi'r Zayt University lecturer, by Khalid Abu-'Akr—date and place not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate recent international political developments regarding the Palestine question?

A: It is a sorry fact, but a fact nonetheless, that what exists now is a political process led by the United States, which is not to say that the Soviet Union is being totally excluded, but that the United States is the major player at this stage. It seems that the Soviet Union is taking a secondary position for international reasons, especially the developments in the eastern camp. In addition, there seems to be evolving an agreement between the two superpowers to reduce tension in areas of regional conflict.

With respect to the Middle East and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, we find that the United States has assumed a prominent role, while the Soviet Union has begun to change subtly its declared positions concerning the nature of the international peace conference, Palestinian representation and a final solution.

I believe there is now American movement toward the convening of an international conference with semiofficial PLO representation to discuss a semifinal solution.

Q: Do you mean by that the Baker plan?

A: What I have mentioned precedes and follows the Baker plan, which only embodies U.S. policy, and this policy was being implemented even before the Baker plan was declared. The plan generally aims at trying to engage both sides, Palestinian and Israeli, in direct negotiations within the framework I mentioned earlier.

Q: Does the Baker plan contradict the Palestinian position?

A: Baker's plan strongly contradicts the following points in the Palestinian position: the convening of an international conference with full authority, the official participation of the PLO in that conference, and that the peace conference should lead to an independent Palestinian state. All of this should be without Israel's consent.

On the other hand, Baker's plan and the American position in general do not comply with the longstanding Israeli policy to continue the occupation and to control the land occupied in 1967. The United States holds to certain principles concerning peace, which are exchanging land for peace, applying UN resolutions 242 and 338, and giving political rights to the Palestinians in the context of some form of self-government.

Q: How does the United States reconcile its refusal to attend an international peace conference including the PLO with its acknowledgement that the PLO's role in the peace process cannot be ignored?

A: The United States believes that a peace process that does not involve the PLO in some form or another is practically impossible. However, it believes that the PLO's role can be made less prominent, particularly in the early stages, although even in these stages I believe the United States expects it will be the PLO that will nominate, though perhaps not declare, a Palestinian delegation.

Q: How then do you see the Palestinian position?

A: There is no doubt that there is intense discussion and disagreement within the PLO about the way it should handle American policy in general and the five-point plan in particular. There are people who say that what we have already offered is enough, and that we must wait and prepare for an international conference with full authority and with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing. There are others, however, who say that politics is the art of the possible, and the possible at this stage and in the foreseeable future is the current American initiative. Palestinians may be able to turn this initiative to their favor. They also want to break through the barrier to negotiations erected by Israel, particularly the Likud Party, and involve themselves in negotiations based on the principle that through this process the situation can develop positively.

Q: Does this mean an official Palestinian-Israeli dialogue?

A: It should be taken into consideration that if this is achieved, it will be the first official political dialogue between Israelis and the Palestinians. This will enhance legitimate Palestinian demands both locally and internationally, even if the dialogue breaks down.

Q: Would you say that the goal of the Palestinian-American dialogue is to push the PLO into accepting the American initiative?

A: It is wrong to assume that in any relationship the Palestinians establish with others that the Palestinians will be the underdog or the negative element in the equation. We should assume that we are building relationships with every party based on the goals we hope to achieve. We should look at the United States as a densely populated continent with a large segment of public opinion isolated from a correct understanding of the Palestinian problem. We should assume that the Palestinian-American dialogue aims to establish a bridge to American public opinion in order to enlist massive popular support, which may equal if not exceed the power of the Zionist lobby in the legislature and thereby influence the official policy of the U.S. government.

I believe there is no black or white in politics. There are always possibilities to influence these positions. I see that various political developments have led to a change in the American government's position, and the positions of many American decision-makers, who realize that the PLO is the key to the peace process in the Middle East. This did not exist before, and may be attributed to two factors; first, the Palestinian people's adherence to the legitamacy of the PLO's representation, and second, the PLO's ability to present itself as a means by which a political process can be brought about.

Q: How does the Intifadah relate to the peace process?

A: These two things should be seen as complementary. The Intifadah can be considered an evolving process of struggle, which should continue to develop itself until an appropriate time when international parties have managed to find a political equation regarding the Middle East peace process. I believe we should encourage and promote international attempts to find a formula for solving the Middle East conflict.

On the other hand, we should also promote the Intifadah, which is a process of state-creation, developing it one more step to the more sophisticated level of, specifically, unilaterally declaring a provisional Palestinian government. This government should not consist only of a council of ministers, but also a full bureaucratic apparatus in which tens of thousands of citizens, working in various sectors like health, education and social welfare, are employed. These sectors can include both existing institutions as well as popular committees.

The step itself would constitute a tangible progression in the concept and utility of our national authority, which has thus far been in a state of evolution. Through such a step we would also manage to unify all the efforts of our active institutions in order to provide our evolving national authority with an organizational roof. We would be able to consolidate and develop an institutional linkage between the ordinary citizen in the occupied state and the PLO Executive Committee.

In my view, the formation of such a bureaucracy and such a government would constitute a natural extension of the declaration of independence, and would fill the bureaucratic vacuum created partly by Jordan's administrative disengagement and partly by the Intifadah's strategy of civil disobedience. It will also bring a tangible presence to our national authority, which would then function as a legitimate reference point for ordinary citizens in the occupied state. This reference point will be based on the existence of a pyramid-like integration of local institutions with the PLO leadership abroad.

Q: What reaction do you expect from Israel?

A: Such a step will return the initiative to the Palestinian people. It will do to Israel what the Intifadah succeeded in doing during the first year, namely, impose the necessity of reacting. Any Israeli reaction would not be in Israel's interests. The authorities could engage in a wholesale campaign of arresting peaceful citizens, whose only offense would be performing their civic duties

(teaching, giving treatment, etc.), which would once again put Israel on the spot as far as its international standing is concerned. Or the authorities could desist from such action, in which case the national people's authority would have accomplished for itself a legitimizing of its presence on the organizational level, which would be more sophisticated than what exists today. At any rate, we must regard the process from a holistic point of view, as a process that consists of stages that are undoubtedly witnessing the birth of the Palestinian state. The stages started with the outbreak of the Intifadah and ran through the campaign of civil disobedience, the declaration of independence, and now the declaration of a government. All of this betters our negotiating position, and will culminate in a negotiating process more favorable from our point of view.

Q: Is there a contradiction between this idea and the proposed elections?

A: There is no contradiction whatsoever. I see the unilateral declaration of government as one more stage in the unfolding of the Intifadah, while I see elections as part of a political process aimed at a political settlement. But it is possible to conceive of a situation in which the government and its bureaucracy could benefit from the election proposal by being the party to supervise the elections, as long as those elections are regarded as part of a holistic peace proposal endorsed by the PLO from the beginning.

'Abd-al-Majid Says Visit Would Have 'No Point'

TA2111201689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Egypt believes that by not including the PLO, Israel is closing the door to any chance for progress in the peace process. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made these remarks to Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt. Our diplomatic correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that in response to the ambassador's remarks, Shim'on Shamir said Egypt must contribute to convincing the Arab countries to move toward making peace with Israel. The Egyptian minister replied that there is no chance that this will occur before the Palestinian problem is solved.

The Egyptian minister also did not accept an invitation from Foreign Minister Arens to visit Israel. 'Abd-al-Majid said there was no point to such a visit at this time. Ambassador Shamir returns home tonight for consultations.

Rabin, IDF Commanders Visit 'Security Zone'

TA2111203289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, accompanied by the chief of staff and the commander of the Northern Command, visited the security zone in Lebanon today. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that they met with General Antoine Lahd, who briefed them on the latest incidents in the region and on the increased cooperation between various organizations in southern Lebanon against the South Lebanese Army and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF]. The defense minister also conferred with commanders and soldiers.

Magnetic ID's To Be Extended to West Bank

TA2011191589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev says the magnetic identity cards issued to Gaza residents will be extended to Arabs in Judaea and Samaria. Speaking to the Voice of Israel, Bar-Lev said the Defense Ministry is preparing the new passes, but he gave no date for when the operation will begin.

When the new procedures went into effect for Gaza residents back in August, more than 60,000 applied for the magnetic passes. Those without the new cards were denied entry into Israel. Some 1,700 security offenders and those who had committed a crime in the last 5 years were denied the passes. Today, Police Minister Bar-Lev said he now wants to ban 10,000 Gazan criminals from entering Israel. His statement follows a number of murders in the Tel Aviv area recently committed by Gaza residents. [passage omitted]

Police Say 'Terrorist Gang' Set Up in Triangle

TA1711154189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Police testified at the Kefar Sava magistrate's court today that in the past few months, a terrorist gang that went by the name of the Sons of the Arab Revolution was organized in the village of al-Tayyibah in the Triangle. Its goals were to harm the State of Israel in general, and in particular to attack civilian, police, and military targets. This was reported during a hearing in which police requested that three of seven suspected gang members be remanded into custody. The detention of four others was extended yesterday.

IDF, Palestinians Report Uprising Casualties

TA2211103489 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 22 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 20 November, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 526 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure includes those killed by IDF soldiers' gunfire only.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian casualties stands at 664.

Palestinian sources, however, report that 804 Palestinians were killed according to the following breakdown:

—585 killed by IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;
—82 dead by asphyxation;
—53 dead by beating and electrocution;
—84 dead of other reasons.

Concession on East Jerusalem Arabs Recommended

TA1611132089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Nov 89 p 11

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "And What About the Arabs of East Jerusalem?"]

[Excerpts] Here we go again. After the meeting between George Bush and Yitzhaq Shamir, it will be the time of the Egyptian clarification—that the Arabs of East Jerusalem are entitled to participate in the elections—to rise to the top of the political agenda. This was the assessment made 2 weeks ago by Yitzhaq Rabin, as if Washington and Cairo had been whispering in his ear. At the same time, Egypt will start demanding the inclusion of all sorts of deportees in the Palestinian delegation. The opposition of the Likud's Israel will be left far behind.

The issue of voting rights for the Arabs of East Jerusalem is not new. Shamir has already exercised his "nyet," Moshe Arens followed suit, and the constraints imposed by the Likud Central Committee have stopped being just another statement and have become shackles on the political wrists. But there are some in the Likud leadership who realize that their objections are wrong: The Alignment has already gone over to the other side of the fence, and no moderate Israeli understands the reasons for the Likud's stubborn opposition; furthermore, voting by the Arabs of East Jerusalem is actually compatible with the Likud's concept of a comprehensive solution.

How is that? Very simple: The Likud's political platform strives for a permanent solution that would leave the Arabs of the territories as Jordanian citizens living under Israeli sovereignty. They would make their living in Netanya, stand trial in Nabulus, and vote for the parliament in Amman.

The scenario proposed by the Americans, the Egyptians, and the Alignment—that the Arabs of East Jerusalem should live in Israel, work in Lod, and vote for the autonomy institutions in the territories—resembles the Likud's favored model. With a little bit of goodwill, it can also be seen that way. Few Likud activists with foresight would opt for coming to terms with such a reality just yet. They know that they will ultimately have to give in because they realize that, also within their ranks, there are those who favor the idea of having a Palestinian leave his home near Herod's Gate in Jerusalem, drive a few miles north, and cast his ballot in a polling booth on the outskirts of Ramallah.

No American, who is by law allowed to live in Paris and vote in London for a presidential candidate in Washington, will understand the obstinacy of the Likud's majority in the face of a minority in its midst and the entire Alignment. [passage omitted]

In the current political argument over Jerusalem, Israel would be well advised to give in. Many people do not see any sense in it, and nobody in the world understands it. If that is the case, why do that only after having bad blood once again taint the Israeli-U.S. friendship and the U.S. Administration malign the Israeli Government, and even resume the leaks with regard to military ties with South Africa?

Voting rights for the Arabs of East Jerusalem and the inclusion of the PLO in the territories lie just around the corner, and it will be difficult to stop them. "If you are such a big hero," Yosi Sarid taunted Yitzhaq Rabin 2 days ago, "let us see you arrest Faysal al-Husayni." The defense minister will not do that unless Al-Husayni overtly defies Israeli law, or the High Court of Justice orders the opening of an investigation against him and bringing him to trial.

While U.S. Jewish leaders are giving Shamir a hard time in their talks in Washington and his aides are encountering a tough attitude on the part of State Department officials, the defense minister has once again stated that any Arab residing in the territories would be able to be part of the Palestinian delegation. All he would have to do to get to the talks in Cairo is to keep to himself the fact that he received his letter of appointment from the PLO. In Rabin's words, anybody who has been temporarily expelled from the territories may be counted as an inhabitant of the territories.

The Likud has no other choice. Bush suspects Shamir of not planning to make good on his initiative. The prime minister probably regrets depriving the defense minister of his glory as the author of the idea, but now he is committed. He must deny that this is not what he had in mind. He is in a foul mood because he feels trapped between the Americans, the Egyptians, and Israeli moderates on one hand, and the constraints ministers and the Likud Central Committee on the other. He has no choice but to fall in line with the Alignment ministers. Wherever they stop is where he too will dig in his heels. When Peres and Rabin give in, Shamir will not have the strength to oppose them other than at the expense of an all-out rift with the United States, a crisis in relations with Egypt, and a loss of confidence in him at home.

Following the intense political pressure of the last few days, he may be ready to do just that. He may explain to the Central Committee that there is no other choice, that the time has come for Peres and Rabin to call the shots, and that they should learn to live with this fact for a few months.

This is a tough decision. He is tormented by fear that the two Alignment leaders are in the midst of a significant change that has eroded their solid psychological opposition to PLO participation in the political negotiations. As far as he is concerned, their stance is not one which is reasonable nor one with which he can fall in line. Even the six assumptions and the concessions Moshe Arens ultimately made to Moshe Shahal were not enough for

Peres and Rabin to accept them as prerequisites. Shamir is not pleased with the situation, but for the time being circumstances are against him.

Jordan Urged To Continue on 'Path of Democracy'

TA1411165989 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 9 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Where Is Jordan Going?"]

[Text] With the conclusion of the electoral process in Jordan, political observers are posing a large question, which is: Will the elections be a mere "public relations campaign" in the aftermath of the economic crisis and the popular wave of protest last spring, or will they be the beginning of important political changes in the country's life?

The elections alone are not an answer to the complex problems Jordan is facing. Giving the candidates the freedom to mount an election campaign, removing the ban on the candidacies of party activists, and allowing the open atmosphere that accompanied the election campaign are positive signs. Nevertheless, they need to be translated into practice after the elections by removing the ban on the activity of political parties without discrimination and granting democratic freedoms to the people and their different associations, including the rights of organization and expression.

Consecutive governments have experimented with the path of continued suppression, relying on martial law decrees and emergency regulations and depriving the people the right of expression and organization in the name of protecting the "domestic front" and such pretexts. Time has proved that all this could not subdue the people or divert their attention from the struggle for their vital causes, foremost of which are democracy and economic progress. Time has also proved that former policies are responsible for the acceleration of the economic crisis.

Therefore, past experience, the need to be compatible with the spirit of the age, and the need to respond to the Jordanian people's aspirations in the practice of democracy require a change in the old approach, moving along the path of democracy, and allowing the Jordanian people to discuss and decide on everything that concerns their causes.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Visits Amman

Arrives, Issues Statement

JN2111130289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 21 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived here today.

He was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

In a statement to the press, 'Aziz said: My visit to Amman is within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two fraternal countries, and the continuous exchange of messages between President Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn. He added that the visits between officials of the two countries are continuing to exchange views on bilateral and pan-Arab issues, and other issues of mutual interest. The foreign minister pointed out that he will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn. The message deals with the firm relations between the two fraternal countries, and particularly with developments in the Arab arena and the situation between Iraq and Iran following the discussions held with the representative of the UN secretary general.

Answering a question on hopes of reactivating negotiations between Iraq and Iran following the recent tour of Jan Eliasson, the representative of the UN secretary general, the president's envoy said: I spoke at a press conference a few days ago and I said that Eliasson's visit did not achieve tangible progress because the Iranian side has not changed its stand. He said that the Iranian side is still not ready to enter true and essential negotiations to reach an understanding and to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 as a peace plan to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace, and good neighborly relations between the two countries and in the region in general.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Iraq's readiness to respond to any proposals by the UN secretary general to continue contacts based on our firm and principled stand; namely that Resolution 598 is basically a peace plan that must be implemented to achieve peace. He said: We have explained this stand clearly to the UN secretary general, and we will continue to explain it to the world, although it is already known to it.

Regarding Iraqi-Egyptian relations, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that relations between Iraq and Egypt are fraternal, deep-rooted, and include great prospects for fruitful joint cooperation. He said: We do not forget that Iraq and Egypt are members of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] which includes four Arab countries that are bound by deep-rooted ties and deep understanding.

He said that certain problems occurred regarding the Egyptian workers in Baghdad. He added: As you know, we have a large number of Egyptian workers, and with such a large number there are bound to be some problems and different views here and there on these problems. However, within the framework of the firm relations and the deep understanding between the two countries, we were able to resolve many of these problems, while viewing them jointly during First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Cairo. Therefore, I would like to stress that there is no change in the nature of relations between Iraq and Egypt, and if any change takes place it will be for the better, which is what we seek to achieve within the ACC.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN2111142089 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, Nov 21, INA—Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan met here today visiting Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Mr 'Aziz told the INA correspondent here that he held talks with the Jordanian amir on bilateral relations, the Arab conditions and issues of common interest, especially the situation between Iraq and Iran.

The meeting was attended by Jordanian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Mr 'Aziz arrived here earlier today.

Confers With King Husayn

JN2111172289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at al-Nadwah Palace at noon today Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. 'Aziz conveyed to his majesty the greetings and appreciation of his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership. He also conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn.

The guest minister briefed his majesty on the results of talks with the UN secretary general's envoy, Jan Eliasson, who is entrusted with holding contacts with Iraq and Iran, held within the framework of ongoing international efforts to reach a peace agreement between the two sides. The talks also dealt with relations between Jordan and Iraq and the progress of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his excellency the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador to Amman.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received Tariq 'Aziz this morning. They discussed the distinguished bilateral relations between the two countries and current developments in the Palestine question from all angles. The talks also dealt with the fields of common action of the ACC, the Iraq-Iran war issue, and Iraq's eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions through holding direct negotiations between the two parties with the aim of achieving peace based on mutual respect and recognition of the known historical facts.

The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister and the Iraqi ambassador to Amman.

Received by Marwan al-Qasim

JN2211104889 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 22 Nov (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has discussed with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them in all fields.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran in light of UN Secretary General's Representative Jan Eliasson's tour of the two countries. The talks also dealt with developments in the Arab arena and issues of common interest.

Deputy Murad Lists Parliamentary Priorities

JN1911092889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Nov 89 p 3

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Deputy Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad is one of the young deputies elected by the people to defend their causes and express their ambitions and wishes under the dome of the House of Representatives.

Deputy Murad is one of the youngest deputies, born in 1950. He says: Defending the citizens' rights to a dignified and free life with unrestricted freedom of expression is one of the deputy's most important duties. The Palestine question is the primary central cause of the Arab liberation movement. It is also the first cause adopted by the world liberation movement. With this in mind, work must be done to eliminate neo-colonialism and its most dangerous manifestation—the Zionist settlement in Palestine.

In his opinion, the intifadah is the beginning of the rise of the Arab liberation movement, which has suffered many harsh blows, the most prominent being the 1967 defeat.

Deputy Murad also believes that the decision to disengage ties was a good political decision. However, the measures resulting from the decision should be canceled in order to alleviate the suffering of the steadfast Palestinian Arab people. The establishment of the State of Palestine is a major step toward complete liberation. Those who make daily sacrifices in the occupied territories, under the leadership of the PLO, have the right to determine their own future without having anyone bargain for them.

[Al-Silawi] Foreign papers and news agencies have described you as a terrorist. How do you answer them?

[Murad] Those who describe me as a terrorist are the ones who have killed our women, children, and elderly. Thanks to them, thousands of condemnations and UN resolutions against Israel, which have been approved by the world, have been blocked.

Those who describe me as a terrorist are the ones who burned the al-Aqsa mosque, profaned churches, demolished homes inside Palestine, and chased Palestinians abroad. They committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres; killed and murdered writers, journalists, and poets; committed massacres in Kafr Qasim; and to date, still practice various and extreme forms of violence against our women and children inside in response to the glorious Palestinian Arab people's intifadah. If the person who defends his land, honor, and nation is a terrorist, then I call on all decent people in the world to become terrorists.

[Al-Silawi] After your success in Parliament, what are the major issues you will be addressing and what is your top priority?

[Murad] I believe in the principle of separating the three branches of authority. I call for restoring the stature and full privileges of the judiciary, which have been dwarfed by recent measures. I believe that Parliament should be established under the supervision of the executive authority. The executive should be held accountable boldly and without bias. The interests of the nation and people are more important than individual interests. We want a house of deputies that does not rubberstamp every decison made by the executive authority. There must be discussion, research, accountability, and bold questions on the part of all House members.

One of my priorities is to repeal martial and emergency laws. I believe that the Constitution is the legitimate alternative to martial law. The Constitution guarantees public freedom to the people.

The Jordanian Constitution is in favor of liberties and democracy. The Jordanian Constitution places Parliament before everything else since it stipulates in its first article that the system of government is a parliamentary monarchial system.

[Al-Silawi] What do you think of the present election law? Are you in favor of the establishment of parties?

[Murad] The spirit of the Constitution and the aspirations of the people contradict the present election law.

The people are demanding the repeal of the present election law and its substitution with a modern and democratic election law.

The Constitution supports social and economic development, which require the public freedom to establish political organizations, because political parties are the first step toward social development.

Preventing people from working on the basis of doctrine or political commitment is against to the Constitution. Preventing the cadres of this nation from their livelihood is also a breach of the Constitution.

How can we develop our country without the freedom to read and write?

[Al-Silawi] I understand, then, that you support the freedom of the press?

[Murad] Yes, freedom of the press is a measure of the country's freedom. Journalism is the fourth branch of authority in nations that respect their people's minds. I will demand the freedom of journalism, publication, and distribution. The principle of providing journalists and authors with security—and not subjecting them to punishment or banning them from writing—can only be achieved through democracy. By liberating our minds and ourselves we take an important step toward a prosperous Jordan.

[Al-Silawi] Do you support the separatiion of the three branches of government and how do you see the relationship between them?

[Murad] The Constitution stipulates the principle of separating the three branches: Legislative, judicial, and executive. This forces us to respect an independent judiciary—a judiciary predisposed toward justice for all members of society, a judiciary that is committed to non-interferance in its affairs by the executive. We must give the judges the right to a free and decent life.

All matters should be equal before a just judiciary system. We do not want extraordinary courts and administrative authorities to have the right to detain people and stop them from travelling. We say yes to justice among all members of the society. As for the legislative authority, the authority of the people—all people—it should perform its proper role in forcing the executive authority to focus on both the major and minor interests of the people. The legislative authority has every right to prevent the executive committee from deviating from its duties, which should be based on the public and national interest.

Based on my belief that a free people are both the school and the teacher, and on my belief in democracy, I have always called for democracy in order to form a new and modern Jordan in which the values of the age suit the morals of our heritage. With the freedom I am demanding—the freedom of the people from restrictions—we can isolate the exploitationist group represented by the brokers who have used the nation's interests to serve their own interests, thus distorting the image of our country and people.

[Al-Silawi] How can Parliament help solve the economic crisis?

[Murad] The infrastructure of the Jordanian economy is distorted. In addition to an absence of linkage between the various economic sectors, there is an economy of coordination on the level of development. [as published] This is reflected in moving all the sectors of our national economy backward.

Our economy is experiencing a storm of sharp crises blowing through it, along with the crises of world capitalism, which is pushing it from the peak of prosperity into the depths of depression. This is accompanied by inflation and price increases. The industrial sector, which should be the leading sector, is being abandoned and its role diminished. This is the result of a misunderstanding of the significance of the industrial base, which is being replaced by a number of fragile manufacturing industries that depend on foreign concessions and use production materials not geared to development. The industrial sector should be given greater importance to build a solid industrial base founded on research and development. We should begin industrial projects with public ownership depending on science, labor, and capital. This cannot be done except through defining a sound economic policy based on scientific laws—not on bureaucracy, individual decisionmaking, and feelings of incompetence.

The crisis in the agriculture sector, our country's traditional sector, is caused basically by the presence of large individual holdings, by not using the best methods, by the fact that farmers do not own their land, and by the control of brokers and real estate agents who impose a price monopoly on many types of raw and intermediate materials. The reason for this is the absence of the role of the state and the lack of services that should provide for all farmers equally.

Recreating interest in the agriculture sector requires, above everything else, distributing virgin government land to farmers and establishing government farms and cooperatives which would use the unused agricultural resources. Giving farmers social security, providing them with easy-term loans, and exempting them from accumulated debts are basic prerequistes for supporting intitiative and the ideal exploitation of land.

The problem of the service sector is manifested in the bias toward the rich and influential and the prevention of the poor from benefitting from this sector in an ideal way. In various areas in Jordan there are great differences in the amount and quality of services—services which have become a monopoly of the privileged and those able to pay high prices.

The problem worsened when institutions were badly administered and when public sector institutions

became the ready prey of the private sector. The losses incurred by these institutions are the result of embezzlement, neglect, and absence of strong supervision so that selling them to the private sector would be justified.

Education, hospitalization, housing, and services such as water, communications, and electricity have become a heavy burden on people with low incomes. This problem can only be solved by a just distribution of services without class or geographic discrimination, lowering prices, providing free education and medicine for all, and providing an individual home for each family.

As for the taxation system, our people have suffered from its injustice. The repetition, duplicity, and heavy burden of various taxes on the poor classes have deepened class distinctions between the people.

A just taxation system is one which lightens the tax burden on those with lower incomes. This means exempting poor groups such as workers, farmers, students, soldiers, and others from direct taxes and imposing a progressive tax on the middle and high income categories. Also, exempting basic goods from indirect taxes, decreasing taxes on some other goods, and raising them on luxury goods could achieve justice in this area, provided basic and luxury goods are categorized as such fairly.

[Al-Silawi] What is your opinion on the role of women in society?

[Murad] Only a short time ago, women had no place in this society. The central duty of our mothers was to bear children, take care of them, prepare food, and deal with domestic matters. However, the reality of the age, with its complications and the realities and demands of civilization, have imposed a new way of thinking on man in society. Women have gone to school, to the university, and to work. They now have become half of society in bearing responsibilities. Despite all this, laws have not developed in step with the development of women's duties in life. They are still a long way from performing their political and social role and winning their right to form unions and federations.

Women are required to struggle for their full rights. This dictates that every citizen who cares about the nation should stand by them and their rights so that women can struggle side by side with men in building this homeland.

[Al-Silawi] What about the problems and sufferings of the youth of the country?

[Murad] The young person at 18 years old is not entitled to vote. At the same time, this same 18 year old is a person responsible for his civil and legal behavior according to the other Jordanian laws. Could there be a more degrading and oppressive attitude toward youth than this?

The youth in our country are suffering from unemployment and a lack of opportunity to express their opinion.

The youth are the new blood which flows through the veins of society. They are the leadership of the future. Movie houses are open to them to watch uncensored films. Cafes and clubs are also open to them to play cards instead of having libraries for them.

Preparing the youth for the future can only be done through a free society.

[Al-Silawi] Do you approve of forming a cabinet consisting of deputies?

[Murad] I have no objection to a number of deputies in the government. The government should also have a progressive element pursuing the interests of this country and having pure political ideas contributing toward Jordan's development and bringing it to the shores of peace.

[Al-Silawi] If you are offered a chance to participate, will you do so?

[Murad] No.

[Al-Silawi] Why?

[Murad] Because I believe that being a deputy is something the people have honored me with and I do not wish to move away from them. They are the ones who made me their representative in the executive authority, so how can I be an observer and also a member of the executive authority?

[Al-Silawi] What is your opinion on the subject of the National Charter?

[Murad] Frankly, I support the establishment of parties and political organizations. It is the soundest framework for a free and democratic life.

[Al-Silawi] Do you believe that our people are ready for the multi-party experience?

[Murad] In the recent elections, our Jordanian people have proven that they are capable of carrying out such a process successfully. I am confident of the people's success.

Commentary on King's Election News Conference

JN1211120689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Another Milestone in Jordan History"]

[Text] In a remarkably relaxed manner, His Majesty King Husayn laid to rest, during a press conference Friday, the fears and anxieties of those shortsighted commentators from within and outside the Kingdom that the results of the 1989 parliamentary elections spell gloom for Jordan. First and foremost, King Husayn assured the local and foreign press that he and his government and people are totally satisfied with the outcome of the elections. That was in answer to some observers who were betting on the proposition that Jordan is all hot and bothered by the many revelations that the Wednesday elections brought forth. On the contrary, King Husayn assured Jordanians and others Friday that the results were very good and

beneficial as they portray Jordanians' new state of mind. As for the maginificent show of strength by the "Islamic movement" in these elections, His Majesty reminded all concerned that Jordan is composed of Muslims and Christians ever since time immemorial and that it would be wrong and imprecise to maintain that the 30 odd parliamentary seats that will be occupied by members of the "Islamic movement" suggest a return to Islam. How can a Muslim return to Islam? King Husayn remarked. Muslims can only go forward with their faith and not backward. His Majesty went on to recall that the Kingdom has always been for the Muslim Brotherhood movement at times when it suffered from persecution in other countries. Accordingly, it would be totally untrue to allege that the Muslim Brotherhood presence in the Lower House of the Parliament can ever be construed as a sign of growing opposition. In fact, King Husayn pointed out, participation in the decision-making process at the level of the Lower House of Parliament need not and must not be interpreted as "opposition" in the strictest sense of the word. And as an added guarantee that Jordan has no cause to fear the results of the elections and that there is no going back from the revitalised parliamentary life, His Majesty assured his people that the projected National Pact will envisage the establishment of political parties where all diverse political views and thoughts would have opportunities for expression.

All in all, the winds of change ushered in by the results of the 1989 elections are lasting and welcomed by all. Parliamentary system in the Kingdom, therefore, can go only one way and that is forward. His Majesty has blessed the latest national elections and has stood by their fruits. Thus, 1989 will go down in Jordan history as yet another milestone on the continuing road towards greater participation of the people of Jordan in the decision-making process.

Writer Commends Islamists' Signs of Moderation

JN1811121489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Nov 89 p 1

["A Word" column by Raka[illegible] al-Majali: "Representation—Service to the Citizen and the Homeland"]

[Text] We consider the Islamic movement's choosing not to nominate one of its deputies for the speakership of the House of Representatives as a positive indication of its understanding of the requirements of the current situation, a positive response to the moderate inclination of our people, and a contributon to the public's awareness of the importance of making democracy succeed through mutual affection and shared responsibilities.

We also consider their objective comments, praise of the integrity of the elections and of the positive, impartial role of the media, and other statements made by figures in the movement as an indication of the committed, national role that should be assumed by every deputy to participate, share responsibility, deal with the economic crisis, and fend off foreign conspiracies. We know that our people realize that Jordan's current situation—brought about by its deep-rooted and principled policies—demands promotion of national feeling to the point of mobilization and sacrifice.

We do not think that any one wants to compete in the market of political one-upmanship and outbidding. We also think that everybody realizes that passivity, slogans and illusions, dwelling on battles fought by knights against windmills, and every deviation from real responsibilities will inevitably contribute to plots against our homeland and people.

We are talking about the high responsibilty that must be assumed by everybody and the right to stress reform and effect positive change. These responsibilities are part of the new stage spoken of by the leader of the homeland—a stage that requires determination, loyalty, and awareness.

We believe that everyone in our country is patriotic, and that his patriotism is confirmed and deepened in relation to how much he gives on behalf of his kinfolk, homeland, and nation. More important than futile, theoretical controversy is making our way toward the future with firm steps.

We hope that success in reaching the House of Representatives will act as a basis and a motivation to work with confidence, achieve success, overcome difficulties, and face challenges.

Phalangist Party Leader Rejects 'Awn Government

NC2211065489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] In a statement yesterday, Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah said that any government enjoying unanimous support is viewed as a national reconciliation government. He added that General 'Awn will be nothing more than a militia chieftain after the new government is formed and that 'Awn's government will have lost all constitutional legitimacy.

'Awn Threatens Attack on Headquarters

NC2211084789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The dispute between 'Awn and the Phalangist Party is growing violent. After the monument to Phalangist Party founder Pierre al-Jumayyil in Bikfayya was blown up at dawn yesterday, it was reported that 'Awn threatened to destroy the Phalangist Party headquarters in the al-Sayfi area, which he has already tried to attack twice.

Sources say 'Awn has announced that his army's guns will remain in position and trained on the party headquarters. As soon as Phalangist Party leader Sa'adah agrees to participate in the government, 'Awn will flatten this headquarters and perhaps other party headquarters, the sources added.

Reportage on Explosion of Car Bomb in West Beirut

Bomb Outside Government House

NC2211120589 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1159 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] We have learned that an explosion was heard in the al-Sana'i' area [in West Beirut] a short time ago. We will provide you with the details as soon as we receive them. Our correspondent in the Government House has just reported that the explosion which was heard in the al-Sana'i' area was caused by a booby-trapped vehicle and occurred moments after President Rene Mu'awwad left the Government House. The first explosion was closely followed by another blast.

Mu'awwad 'Martyred' in Explosion

NC2211140789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] At 1350 today, a booby-trapped car exploded in the al-Raml al-Zarif area near the Beirut prison in the western sector of the city after the motorcade of Mu'awwad, Al-Husayni, and Al-Huss. President Rene Mu'awwad was martyred.

Details of Assassination

NC2211142989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad was assassinated at 1350 today when a booby-trapped car exploded while his motorcade was passing near the al-Zarif school in the vicinity of the Beirut prison in the al-Raml al-Zarif area. Seven Syrian Intelligence Service personnel were killed in the same incident. A unit of this service was participating in the protection of the motorcade.

Voice of Lebanon declares its great sorrow and pain, and denunciation of the heinous crime, and announces that it will suspend its scheduled programs and will broadcast classical music.

Al-Huss, Al-Husayni Safe

NC2211145089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1427 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: This afternoon Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss announced the martyrdom of President Rene Mu'awwad. The prime minister read a statement to that effect from his house in 'A'ishah Bakkar. This horrible piece of news was discussed for 1 and ½ hours before it was announced; no reporters or journalists could see the president. Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss escaped the blast which occurred in the al-Raml al-Zarif area at 1350.

Lebanon, which lost its independence hope on Independence Day, will know how to rise above this catastrophe and unify in spite of those is opposition. The Ministry of Information extends its heartfelt condolences to the Lebanese people and hopes God will guide them to the unity and peace, for which the martyred President Rene Mu'awwad lived and died.

Al-Huss Announces Death

NC2211152989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Speech by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in Beirut on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] With extreme feelings of pain and anger I hereby announce to the kind Lebanese people the death of your President Rene Mu'awwad, the martyr of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, the martyr of human and national values, the martyr of peace, amity, and hope, and the martyr of the aspirations for a better future.

He died at the hands of treacherous and sinful people. Let the criminal know that he can assassinate a great personality such as martyr President Rene Mu'awwad, but he cannot kill the overwhelming patriotic faith that brought Rene Mu'awwad to the Presidency. Let the criminal know that Lebanon will endure, hope will endure, the will to live will endure, and the will for accord will endure.

Yes. The soul of Rene Mu'awwad will remain with us in our determination and in our faith. Shame on the hands of crime. Only the right, amity, and unified Lebanon will overcome. We all are ready to be sacrificed for the sake of unified Lebanon. May God have mercy on Rene Mu'awwad, and on his family, kin, and friends. I pray that God will have mercy on all the Lebanese, and may He bestow on us the determination to follow His path, even if that leads to martyrdom. We pledge ourselves to the pursuit of the same path, in spite of the criminals.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1503 GMT on 22 November, in an additional report, notes: "This afternoon Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss issued a memorandum declaring general mourning for a week. All flags will be flown at half-mast on all government and public institutions in mourning for Lebanon's martyred President Rene Mu'awwad."]

'Awn Group Blamed

JN2211152389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following: Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss announced a short while ago that President Rene Mu'awwad has passed away in a booby-trapped car explosion carried out by the group of rebel General Michel 'Awn. Al-Quds radio political editor adds that the doors of all possibilities are now wide open and Lebanon is heading toward the unknown.

15 Reported Dead; 32 Injured

NC2211151689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad was martyred when a booby-trapped car rigged with 200 kg of TNT exploded in the al-Zarif area of West Beirut opposite the Beirut prison at 1350 today. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss escaped injury.

The explosion was arranged by the al-Yarzah army gangs ['Awn forces], who meanwhile were celebrating in al-Fayyadiyah. The commander of their clique, Michel 'Awn, was pinning medals on the chests of some criminal officers in the spiteful military establishment which assassinated the martyred prime minister Rashid Karami. Michel 'Awn was also announcing that no one will be able to reach the presidential palace.

The blast killed 15 people and left 32 others injured. The president's driver and presidential escorts Ya'qub Shaqqal and Yusuf Basha were among those killed. Salim Fahd, Nimr 'Ubayd, and Yusuf Hashshar, also members of the president's entourage, were among the wounded.

Further Details on Explosion

NC2211171489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister-Designate Dr Salim al-Huss this afternoon announced the martyrdom of President Rene Mu'awwad. [passage omitted]

Martyr President Rene Mu'awwad left the Government House in al-Sana'i' area at 1350, accompanied by three vehicles from the internal security forces, the intelligence, and the military police. As soon as his motorcade reached the al-Raml al-Zarif School, an explosive device operated by remote control that was placed in an abandoned shop at the school's corner went off. The device is estimated to have been rigged with 250 kg of TNT. The magnitude of the blast hurled the president's car from the school to the dirt plot of land near the Da'bul Travel Agency.

According to investigative sources, a person was watching the motorcade and when the president's car appeared, he detonated the device by remote control. Later this afternoon, the president's car, which was a bulk of crushed steel, was transferred to the al-Hilu barracks.

According to the latest casualty toll prepared by the internal security forces, the blast left 13 dead and 36 others wounded. Among those killed are five of the companions of martyred Presideent Rene Mu'awwad.

Al-Huss Government 'Constitutional'

NC2211174389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] A constitutional source has stated that Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' government is deemed constitutional and will continue as caretaker government until an invitation is extended to the Chamber of Deputies to meet and elect a new president of the Republic.

'Awn Addresses Army Officers on Independence Day

NC2211152489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn addressed senior officers today. He said: We do not need the world to recognize us. It is the world that needs our recognition. Here is Gen 'Awn:

[Begin 'Awn recording] I wish you a happy day on this occasion. This year it is a true independence day. We have expressed our free will and made a free stand that stemmed from the Lebanese will on the Lebanese soil. Today we revived one of our beautiful traditions, namely, awarding medals to officers on the occasion of Independence Day. [passage omitted]

The entire world is watching you today for your reactions, because Lebanon's destiny will be determined through these reactions. For my part, I am satisfied. If I

were not, I would not have made these decisions that reflect the iron will, which is embodied in you, and which is united with the will of the Lebanese people. This single homeland, as represented by the army and the people, will not be defeated by anyone.

The iron curtain, the biggest example, is crumbling today. Despite all the tanks that passed through Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and other countries, in the end the will of these peoples gained victory and walls everywhere fell apart. Berlin is becoming united; Czechoslovakia is in turmoil. Not a single closed country in the world will remain closed. Freedom is greater than any electronic waves in the sense that no barrier can stop it, whether it is [word indistinct] or steel.

These waves emanating from Beirut will fall in the Middle East and will affect the beds of all the existing dictatorships, whether those based on religion, brute militry rule, or any other regime. There is no limit to freedom; the sky is the limit. No natural or artificial barrier can stop it. Today you are not liberating Lebanon only, but Lebanon and its universe. Just as the religious heavenly messages started from the east, your message is bigger [applause].

The so-called free world took the human principles and the slogans of freedom as a pretext until it asserted its interests, and that is why revolutions broke out against it. The Iranian revoultion erupted against the exploitation of the Iranian people, but unfortunately, there was a reverse reaction toward terrorism and violence. We have the same reaction here against this world that claims to be free, but instead of being a reaction of terrorism and bloody revolution against this world, we are trying to teach from here what the true values of freedom, justice, and equality in the world are. [applause] All of this is from the basis of rights and freedom, and not on the basis of force, because this brute world could crush us. [passage omitted]

From this premise, we do not need the world to recognize us; it is the world that needs our recognition. [applause] [end recording]

'Awn Holds News Conference at B'abda Palace

NC2111174989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1328 GMT 21 Nov 89

[News conference by General Michel 'Awn with unidentified reporters at the presidential palace in B'abda—live]

[Excerpts] ['Awn] I welcome you to what I could call our weekly meeting, because every Tuesday afternoon we meet with you to explain currrent events and our position on and views of these events at this historic moment in Lebanon's experience. We do this so the public can make an informed judgment and hear the truth we are telling them, a truth that proceeds from the facts at our disposal. The public can also make an informed judgment by observing other officials and leaders who are active on the Lebanese scene. Thus, we rely on you to raise issues and questions of concern to the public. You have an important role to play when it comes to raising issues and eliciting replies. An important question will elicit a correspondingly important answer. I hope that your questions will be responsible and rise to the level of events. Whatever your questions, I have no reservations about answering them. As usual there is no embarrassment, but, as we have said, let issues be raised simply, without complications. Just as I answer in a simple manner, let the questions be simple. I am at your disposal.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the current stage has begun to be the stage of removing General 'Awn or attempting to remove him by diplomatic, not military, means. The U.S. ambassador hastened to present his credentials to the new president. The French ambassador will present his credentials next Thursday. The Egyptian and Algerian ambassadors will do likewise. What is Gen 'Awn's response to these attempts?

['Awn] Credentials have never consolidated a regime or a ruler's tenure. We have given numerous examples of recognized and established regimes which were then changed by their people's will. The Americans never supported anyone as much as they supported the shah, but he packed up and left. They used to support Marcos. There were others too. Therefore, anything that does not enjoy popular national support will remain an illusion on the part of external parties. Regrettably—and I do not like to use this term—he who enjoys foreign support against his people is described as an agent. He will not be the product of his people's will. You are witnesses to what is happening and are the best people to express your will and wish. What do the Lebanese people want? Is what is happening an expression of their will? I believe not. It is not an expression of their will and what is happening—as you saw in Sunday's drama in Ihdin [when the U.S. ambassador presented his credentials to Mu'awwad]—did not satisfy anyone. It was a departure from all diplomatic norms and represented direct intervention and encitement to internal conflict. All that was missing was for him to raise a pistol and begin shooting and attacking. I mean, he reminded us of western [preceding word in English] films, I am sorry to say.

[Reporter] Lakhdar Ibrahimi gave a 15-day deadline for a political solution and warned of a return to fighting if this deadline was not met. Speaker Husayn al-Husayni stressed the use of force if a political solution fails. In the past 2 days, there have been moves by Syrian special forces and military hardware in the direction of Beirut. Does this mean that we are heading toward a new war?

['Awn] I regret that Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi spoke of a military solution when he came here under the banner of peace. I hope that he will insist on attaining a just solution by peaceful means. He did not come here under the banner of a gun. Likewise, Mr Husayn is holding on to other people's coattails. I do not know by what means he will decide matters. I did not know he had regiments

to confront others with, unless he intends to borrow some. As to the Syrian Army's moves, there has been no new Syrian entry into Lebanon. There are moves within the Syrian forces already in Lebanon. No new army has entered, generally speaking. However, tell me what kind of political solution it is when they give you the choice between having guns fired at you and surrendering? This has become robbery. [laughs] This is brigandage on a deserted road. Gunmen stop your vehicle and tell you to hand over your money or be killed. I regret that we have sunken to this level. I do not know what to say. You journalists are better able to comment on such an issue than I am.

[Reporter] Tonight or tomorrow morning Lebanon will enter a new stage—two governments and one president. Some say the situation will revert to either federalism or partition. Does Gen 'Awn accept that his rejection of the al-Ta'if accord will lead to partition or does he have an alternative solution?

['Awn] I do not want to hear the word partition. There is a free area controlled by a constitutional government headed by me. I alone have the right to speak in the name of Lebanon. The view of a government appointed by an occupying power is not heard anywhere in the world, unless we want to violate all historical precedents in this regard. Therefore, there will not be two governments. There is one free government which has the right to speak in the name of Lebanon, and it is our government.

On the other hand, partition is out of the question. We call for the liberation of all Lebanese territory and for its union with the free area. Where is danger of partition? Let this be clear to all: In the event the other area is liberated and we do not reach an understanding of our own free Lebanese will, then we will say there is a danger of partition. However, as long as we are under occupation, there can be absolutely no danger of partition and there cannot be two governments. There is one constitutional government—the government of Gen 'Awn. There is also a government appointed by an occupying power. Maximilian was appointed in Mexico. Petain was appointed in France. Several governments have been appointed by occupying powers but their fate has been dreadful and their members have ended up in prison.

What is important is that a people's free will, regardless of its size, represents them before the world. We are encountering a difficult stage but ultimately recognition will go to the steadfast people who are demanding their freedom and rights.

[Reporter] You speak a lot about the people and their role. Can we know the dividing line between the executive power represented by Gen 'Awn and the popular revolution manifested in recent developments? I can give an example: In the event the eastern deputies wanted to return to the free area and the people decided to make them accountable, perhaps out of belief that these deputies no longer represent them, what will be your role? Will you stand against the people or will you let them make the deputies accountable?

['Awn] In a revolutionary situation, there is no separation between the executive power and the people's struggle. We are one in the same thing. I declared this a long time ago. The split between the people and the so-called deputies occurred several years ago. The legal break occurred in 1976 at the end of the term of the Chamber of Deputies. The psychological and total break increased over time. The deputies did not take the people into consideration. You are a good witness to this. How many times did I call on them while they were in al-Ta'if to return and speak with their electorate? I asked them to return so that they would keep some of their representational status while dealing with a public issue. However, if the deputies broke with the people, what could I do for them? [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You said that your government is the only one that speaks today on behalf of Lebanon. However, the entire world is going to deal with the al-Huss government. In addition, this government has legal and financial weapons, the most important of which is the appointment of a new army commander and the Central Bank's financial policy. The first signs of differences appeared last week with the financial crisis in the eastern area. How do you see these gloomy conditions? Is there no fear that these conditions might aggravate and spread to other government departments and affect things such as the issuance of passports and so on?

['Awn] We have plans for every development and we will carry out these plans. If they want to act on this basis, then let them do so. We are not in a state of confrontation with the government which is under the occupation. We are confronting the forces of occupation. Who told you there is a cash crisis? There is no crisis between us and them. It is between the Central Bank and the banks. This is the problem of the financial and banking system in Lebanon. The Central Bank is responsible for it and if it wants to hit the banking system, then it is to blame.

You say they want to appoint an army commander? Which army? The army's command comes from within, from among those who are qualified, and this is why it is obeyed. The paper on which the appointment decree will be written will be worthless. The decree will be a perpetuation of a fait accompli. They cannot bring just anyone from anywhere and make him army commander. Even if the decree is to be implemented and he has an army behind him, then they must respect the basic principles for appointing an army commander, including national principles, personal values, etc. They still have to find such a person. If they still have a government over there, then we welcome him and we will hand over the army command to him. But if there is no such person to come to take over, then is this my fault? Al-Yarzah [the Defense Ministry] is open. Only let them appoint him and let him come to take over.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you went to Bkirki and from there you contacted his beatitude the patriarch and invited him to return to Bkirki. We understand what Gen 'Awn said but we do not understand what obstacle is preventing the patriarch from returning. What were the results of these contacts?

['Awn] The incident returned to its proper size after the artificial clamor over the issue died down. We went to Bkirki. As I said the last time, no one criticized the patriarch as the patriarch of the Maronite Church. There was opposition to a particular political stand. People expressed this opposition and then everyone went home. There is no reason for his beatitude the patriarch to stay away from Bkirki. No one is restricting his freedom and no one wants to assault him. I went to Bkirki to reiterate my original stand, that is to denounce the incident and to assure him that the parish is still the same. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, Al-Husayni is saying that the government that is being formed will take legal and military measures against you. What is your stand on this?

['Awn] When you say government, then such a government must exist. We dissolved the Chamber of Deputies on 4 November. We decided to dissolve the Chamber. Any action taken after this date is considered an attempt to usurp authority, particularly if it is made in cooperation with the forces occupying Lebanese territory. This is great treason. I do not know if it is called that in legal jargon and I do not want to use big words. Any action taken over there after 4 November is a coupist one. They are in a coupist position. We are in the legitimate authority. They alone are the coupists and are cooperating with forces of occupation. Thus our stand is clear. It is the legitimate stand.

You are paying too much attention to marginal issues which are not important. Just as McCarthy could not get a single ton of fuel to the coast, the paper he brought with him aboard a helicopter from Damascus will not save a regime. This is like the story of the slingshot. You know this story?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] normally follow the political leadership's orders?

['Awn] What does it have to do with McCarthy? He is an intruder, the ambassador of a foreign country who has fled from Lebanon. If he is recognizing a regime, then where is this regime sited? Where is its territory? When a correspondent asked him where he is going to live, in East or West Beirut, he evaded the question and the correspondent did not pursue the matter. Where are the clever correspondents who ask questions and follow them up?

[Reporter] He said that he will reside on the al-Batrun coast.

['Awn, laughing] So he can look at the view and swim in the Mediterranean. This is not, regrettably, conduct becoming to a country such as the United States. I do not want to exaggerate but they are acting like Don Quixote. Do you not think that such behavior is quite foolish for a country such as the United States? In what capacity and on what moral grounds is McCarthy calling on the people to wage a civil war, to kill each other? For whom and for what? Those who have concluded the al-Ta'if agreement are saying that this the best we could do and we wish we had not done it.

Then McCarthy comes along and says: Go kill each other so as to implement it. [Words indistinct] these are the acts of a Don Quixote. You must remember that when the Marines were here and the fleet was all over the Mediterranean, I was wounded while struggling in Suq al-Gharb so that the Marines could withdraw from Lebanon. So if McCarthy comes here in a helicopter, he will not stabilize the Lebanese situation. His fleet could not do it. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In his statement, Ambassador McCarthy said that the United States and you agree on the end but differ on the means. On what did you agree and on what did you differ?

['Awn] Before reaching any position in the army command and before becoming Lebanon's prime minister, I heard the Americans say: We support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Possibly that was being said before my sons were born, maybe before I was married. They support independence and sovereignty all the way, but they have never given any practical content to these statements and stands. On the contrary, their policy was moving in the opposite direction. They have never exerted any pressure except to entrench the fait accompli. Then there can be no agreement on the end. There is agreement in words but the policy is in fact the opposite. This is diplomatic language which we are now used to. They say one thing but mean something else. This is their problem: I mean what I say and they do not.

[Reporter] But there are new and very heavy U.S. pressures on Gen 'Awn, including what is reported in the press today, namely that the United States intends to exert pressure on Egypt and other countries to make Iraq stop providing Gen 'Awn with weapons. What is your comment, Mr Prime Minister?

['Awn] The pressures are evident. Do you need more than the call for the people to fight each other? There is no need to go to Egypt, Iraq, or anywhere else if the situation has reached the level of a direct call to engage in fighting for the sake of certain political purposes. There is no need to go further. As I have said, no pressures can be exerted on me. I will not concede a right which I have no right to concede and which does not belong to me. We have the right to sovereignty, independence, and self-determination and they cannot take these from me. They can kick me out. I have told you that the world can crush

me but it cannot wrest such a recognition from me. They and the Lebanese who believe that there is an end to this issue are wrong because they are putting us on a slippery slope. Since 1969, the more we have gone along with them through agreements, the faster we moved toward the precipice. There is no slowing this down. Either it is halted now or it will never be halted. This is the last stage of the Kissinger plot. Either we halt it or we lose.

[Reporter] Has Gen 'Awn enough weapons?

['Awn] I have a kitchen knife. [laughter and applause] [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The five permanent Security Council members have issued a statement noting the need for Lebanon to normalize its relations with its neighbors. On several occasions, you expressed a willingness to negotiate with Syria to draw up a timetable for its withdrawal from Lebanon as a prelude to organizing relations with it. Is Gen 'Awn willing to respond to this statement and negotiate with Israel to withdraw its forces from the south and to organize relations with Israeli?

['Awn] If the Arabs in the Arab League have failed to propose a single initiative to liberate the land in the south and if the United Nations has not paid attention to this issue and is not dealing with it, then why should I worry about whether to negotiate with Israel to liberate the south? The aim is to liberate the land and let the Lebanese people return to their land so they can lead a sovereign and stable life. If the means of negotiations will let me reach this end, then let it be without fear or worries. We started the al-Naqurah negotiations during the Rashid Karami government, the national unity government, as you probably recall. It is all right to return to negotiations for the sake of achieving sovereignty and independence.

[Reporter] Thus the question of negotiations presupposes [word indistinct] to the south?

['Awn] We are talking about principles now and the practical means are something else. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi has said that there are Algerian-French contacts to tackle the situation with you. The French ambassador saw you 3 days ago. Can we know what French proposals were presented to you?

['Awn] Nothing was proposed. My problem is not with any Lebanese person, not even with Walid Junblatt or Nabih Birri. Our problem is with occupations. I dealt with all countries on the basis of ending the occupations in Lebanon but they kept trying to see the situation as a Lebanese-Lebanese problem, thus evading their responsibilities in international organizations such as the Arab League and the United Nations. We told them the thief entered through the door, but they said: No, the thief was inside your house. There is an occupier in the south. They said: No, we do not see him. There is an occupier in Beirut. They said: No, he does not concern us. You have a fight with your wife. But I am not fighting with my wife. There is one problem of Israeli occupation and another of Syrian occupation. They said: No, you Muslims and Christians are in conflict. You should remain so and must be in conflict. You Christians must kill each other, as Mr McCarthy told us yesterday, so that you can prove that the problem is not only a Christian-Muslim one, but also a Christian-Christian one. Blood must be spilled until rivers of blood become knee high so that the Kissinger plot can continue. [Words indistinct] the days of the plot are over. We have exposed it and it stopped when we did so. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] McCarthy is assuring the deputies that the picture will change within days. In your view, what is McCarthy talking about?

['Awn] I do not know. It could be that things will be done in a new way.

[Reporter] No, really?

['Awn] I do not know.

[Reporter] Is he saying that things will be rearranged after few days and will be all right?

['Awn] I wish you would ask him. It would have been reasonable had he come to Beirut, but where is going to stay? I am worried about where he is going to stay.

[Reporter] He might have something. Maybe a helicopter?

['Awn] Or maybe a ship at sea. [passage omitted]

'Heinous Crime Against Lebanon' After 'Awn Threats

JN2211153689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese Prime Ministry issued an official statement in Beirut this afternoon mourning the death of President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Republic of Lebanon, at the hand of treachery and treason when his motorcade was passing in the al-Sana'i' area in Beirut this afternoon.

This heinous crime against Lebanon and Lebanese legitimacy came after a series of threats by Michel 'Awn, the officer who rebelled against legitimacy, in which he threatened to burn Lebanon, destroy Beirut, and kill the people, deputies, and leaders who participated in the national reconciliation process in al-Ta'if which led to electing the deceased martyr Rene Mu'awwad as president of the Republic of Lebanon.

Information Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

JN2111192289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman tonight received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov in Damascus. The talks dealt with bilateral relations in the field of information and ways to bolster the qualitative and distinguished friendship between the two friendly peoples in all spheres.

The ambassador voiced his dissatisfaction with news media attempts to cast doubts on the close ties linking Syria and the Soviet Union. Zotov stressed that the Soviet leaders understand with great confidence Syria's prominent and important role in the Middle East region, and that no one can undermine or shake this confidence.

The information minister expressed Syria's appreciation of and pride in the continuing progress of bilateral relations of cooperation and friendship which are sponsored by the two leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ambassador To Hold News Conference

JN2111211589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus, broadcast on the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Soviet Embassy in Damascus has invited reporters to a news conference by Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov on Wednesday evening. Observers expect the Soviet ambassador to discuss what a U.S. newspaper attributed to him on his country's relationship with Syria. They also expect him to dot the i's and cross the t's.

'Corrective Movement' Rally in Damascus 16 Nov Draws National Leaders

JN1611185289

[Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic at 1502 GMT on 16 November links up with Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic to carry live a speech rally at Damascus University, sponsored by the Damascus branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to mark the 19th anniversary of the Corrective Movement. Reception is fair. The rally is attended by Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, ministers, and members of the National Progressive Front.

At 1505 a minute of silence is observed to honor martyrs of the Arab nation. The Ba'th Party anthem is then sung, followed by applause.

At 1510, Misbah Baghdadi, the teachers' union president, delivers a 17-minute speech on behalf of the popular organizations. He says the corrective movement has bridged the gap between party leadership echelons and the grassroots. The Corrective Movement, he adds, was a turning point in modern Arab history. The October War was the most important achievement of the Corrective Movement, shattering the myth of the Israeli Army's invincibility. The speaker goes on to praise the al-Ta'if conference on Lebanon, derides 'Awn as a small general, and castigates Saddam's "fascist" regime for backing 'Awn. Baghdadi declares that Syria, led by the Ba'th Party, will continue to pursue the goal of strategic parity with Israel. He salutes the intifadah, the Armed Forces of Syria, the Lebanese people, the National Progressive Front, the Ba'th Party, and President al-Asad.

At 1528 poet 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Hisni recites a 16-minute poem entitled "October Hymn," extolling both the Ba'th Party and Al-Asad as "reviver of the Arab nation and its unifier."

At 1445, Safwan al-Qudsi, member of the National Progressive Front's Central Command, begins a 20-minute speech on behalf of the front. He contends that the Corrective Movement ushered in a heroic era and marked the beginning of the model state. He goes on to characterize the period since the Corrective Movement as 19 years of gold. He hails Al-Asad as a historic leader who arrived on the scene when a historical moment was waiting for the right leader. Extolling Al-Asad, the speaker declares that he stood up to invasion from without and within, and praises him as a leader of historic vision. He notes that Al-Asad has warned against understimating the enemy, and urged that we should understand the sources of our strength. Further praising the president, Al-Qudsi credits Al-Asad with possessing special ideological, intellectual, and political talents, as well as exceptional brains, courage, integrity, and candor, and the ability to make the right decision at the

right time. He contends that the National Progressive movement is one of the formulas whereby Al-Asad has proved ahead of his time—he has beaten by 18 years the pluralistic wave sweeping some parts of the world today.

At 1606 GMT, the rally is addressed by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah on behalf of the Arab Socialst Ba'th Party. He begins his 37-minute speech by characterizing 16 November 1970 as a turning point in the life of the party which created a qualitative shift in the pan-Arab struggle. It marked an era of major changes—the era of Hafiz al-Asad. He calls the National Progressive Front a major achievement of the Corrective Movement and says that it encompasses all progressive and nationalist forces, asserting that it has participated energetically in fulfilling the aspirations of the masses. He describes it as a pioneering experience in political and party pluralism, not only regionally, but globally. He goes on to enumerate the "achievements" of various sectors since the Corrective Movement. In the Arab-wide arena, Mashariqah maintains that since the Corrective Movement began, Syria became the only bastion of confrontation, steadfastness, and defiance in the Arab region.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mashariqah declares that Syria "will continue to struggle with all its resources to bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and to assure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people led by their right to return, to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state in Palestine." The vice president affirms that Syria will continue to back the intifadah, as well as the resistance in southern Lebanon and in the Golan Heights. On Lebanon, Mashariqah asserts that Syria is concerned for the country's independence and sovereignty. Noting that the Lebanese have endorsed elements of national reconcilation and elected a new president, Mashariqah emphasizes that these developments will terminate the civil war. The vice president contends that "the national reconcilation government will manage to remove the deviationist clique that is attempting to impede the national reconcilation march".

Mashariqah charges that "the rightist, fascist Iraqi regime is pursuing its suspect role in the region with a view to securing the continued backing of the imperialist and Zionist forces for it in repressing our people in Iraq and its bloody crimes against this people." He goes on to charge that by supporting the Zionist-backed "clique" in Lebanon, the Iraqi regime has stood in the face of both Lebanese nationalists and Arab public opinion.

The vice president concludes by maintaining that in the unionist effort of the past 2 decades, Syria has been the key contributor. He lists the unionist endeavors from 1970 to 1988 and pays tribute to the Arab martyrs, the Golan people, the intifadah, the Syrian Armed Forces, and Al-Asad.

At 1645 GMT the speech rally concludes with the audience chanting the Ba'th Party anthem. The live relay ends at 1650 GMT.

Vice President Speaks

JN1611194589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Speech by Syrian Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah at a 16 November rally at Damascus University marking the 19th anniversay of the Corrective Movement—live]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens: If it is axiomatic that an event is judged by the effects it has on various aspects of life and that an event's significance is measured by its consequences, then what the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab region saw on the morning of 16 November 1970 was a unique occurrence. That event [the Corrective Movement] constituted a watershed in the progress of the party's struggle and the lives of the masses, and marked a qualitative shift to a special stage along the path of the pan-Arab struggle. [passage omitted]

Foremost among the fruits of the blessed Corrective Movement has been the consolidation of Syria's national unity and domestic front, nurturing the national spirit and sense of pan-Arab responsibility, and cementing the bonds between the party and popular masses, as well as the rallying of the masses around their symbol, hope, and leader of their triumphant march—the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The masses declare their absolute allegiance to President Hafiz al- Asad and swear allegiance to him as a historic leader of the Arab nation. They further declare their determination to pursue the path of work and construction under the courageous, wise leadership of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad—the march of the struggle for liberation, progress and socialism. In this context, the National Progressive Front in Syria was a major achievement of the Corrective Movement, embracing all progressive and nationalist forces, and devoting its energies in the interest of the battles for construction and liberation. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brother citizens: On the pan-Arab front, Syria, under the blessed Corrective Movement, is now the sole bastion of confrontation, steadfastness, and defiance in the Arab arena, defending the honor, pride, dignity, and rights of the Arab nation, standing up to its adversaries, with their greed and plans that seek to dominate the Arab region and control its political, economic, military, and cultural resources and to open the road for the Zionist enemy to build Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile at the expense of Arab land, the Arab nation, and Arab rights. Syria's militant, liberating line has made it the hope of Arab masses across the Arab homeland to set free occupied Arab land and regain usurped pan-Arab rights, led by the national right of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their

homeland, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state on their land and national soil. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian question is the central issue in the struggle of the Arab nation. Syria has worked to build a solid material base for steadfastness and confrontation and to attain strategic parity in all areas with the Zionist entity, and to marshal Arab energies to face the common danger in the battle of pan-Arab destiny. Hence, Syria's ceaseless, absolute support for the national struggle of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian issue shall remain Syria's first concern. Syria will continue to struggle with all its resources to bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and to assure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people led by their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state in Palestine. Syria will go all out to promote the struggle against the Zionist enemy. Syria never misses a chance to underscore the pan-Arab dimension of the struggle with the Zionist enemy and has emphasized that attempts at compartmentalizing the conflict and deluding ourselves about the possibility of attaining peace through separate or partial steps only will increase our enemy's intransigence and stubbornness. Neither will it lead to peace in the region. Peace can be achieved only if two conditions are met: a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national, inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brother citizens: Syria's brotherly initiative in sisterly Lebanon under the direct instructions of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has been intended to staunch the flow of blood, keep the country from being parceled out to sectarian entities, and safeguard its sovereignty and independence. From the start, Syria has sought to show that there can be no solution short of reconciliation among the different parties, and that the road to reconciliation lies in dialogue. [passage omitted]

The internal Lebanese crisis is at a crossroads, now that the Lebanese brothers have worked out and endorsed the principles of national reconcilation, elected a new president into office, and are about to have a new government of national accord. We hope these changes will end the civil strife and liquidate all its vestiges. Syria will extend every possible assistance requested by the national accord government to reassert state control over every inch of Lebanon. We are confident that the national reconciliation government will manage to remove the deviationist clique that is attempting to impede the national reconciliation march. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brothers: Under the current circumstances in the Arab region, when Arab masses are yearning for the realization of their pan-Arab objectives—liberating the occupied Arab territories, regaining usurped pan-Arab rights, and confronting the enemies and conspiratorial plots of the Arab nation—the rightist, fascist Iraqi regime is pursuing its suspect role in the region to secure the continued backing of the imperialist and Zionist forces in order to continue repressing our people in Iraq and commit bloody crimes against them. The agent, fascist regime has not limited itself to the massive physical liquidation of Iraqi nationals; it has extended support and aid to the Zionist- backed clique in Lebanon, flying in the face of all Lebanese nationalists and Arab public opinion. It continues to carry out its suspect, subversive role in the Arab arena. The day of reckoning is not far off when our masses in Iraq will settle accounts with this agent tyrant, who will suffer the same fate as the other despots in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Syria's Al-Ahmar Arrives in Bucharest 18 Nov

JN1811204489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Bucharest—Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar arrived in Bucharest this afternoon, heading a delegation to participate in the 14th Romanian Communist Party Congress. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

President Najibullah Extends State of Emergency

LD2111184389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Nov 89

["Presidential decree" issued by President Najibullah; date not given]

[Text] The office of the presidency reports that in keeping with the Grand Assembly's April resolutions regarding the extension of the state of emergency, the following decree has been issued by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Presidential decree on extending the state of emergency.

Considering irrefutable evidence that Pakistani military circles and their international supporters have continued their aggression and interference in Afghan territory in contravention of the accepted principles of international law, and considering these circles recently have intensified their hostile plans and have broadened their supply and arming of extremists to block highways, besiege cities, and put military pressure on the Republic of Afghanistan, and with the help of God Almighty, I extend the state of emergency beginning with the date of the expiration of the current state of emergency, extended by the Grand Assembly, for another 6 months. The extension is designed to stop armed interference and aggression from abroad, resolutely defend the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and defend Afghanistan's national dignity and tradition, implement national reconciliation aspirations, and ensure peace and calm in the land of the Afghans. I extend the state of emergency in line with the authority conferred on me by April's Grand Assembly, the Constitution, and Grand Assembly Resolution No. 3.

Because the declaration of the state of emergency is made in an unavoidable situation created by specific causes, we can say that if these causes disappear it will be feasible and practical to end the state of emergency before the 6 months are over. We have full confidence that our faithful and patriotic Afghans, just as they have fulfilled their national and Islamic duties in the past, will carry out the self-sacrificing struggle to defend the independence of the country and bring the good news of peace and reconciliation to our fatherland—this free, indivisible, and united country of ours—the independent, free, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

This decree will be enforceable from the date of assent and will be published in the official gazette. Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Najibullah Creates Food Supply Commission

LD2111212889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Nov 89

["Presidential decree" issued by President Najibullah; date not given]

[Excerpts] The office of the presidency reported that Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has issued the following decree on setting up a commission on the side of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland:

Presidential decree on setting up a commission on the side of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland:

To draw the government's attention to solving the problem of supplying basic material for the people, to intensify the struggle against crime, sabotage, and hoarding basic foodstuffs and fuel, to carefully control the matter of meeting people's needs for essential goods, and to prevent misuse in the supply and distribution of the above commodities, the following points have been approved:

Article 1: In accordance with Article 17 of the law on the council of defense of the homeland a special commission on the side of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland will be set up with the following composition:

1. Mir Sahed Karwal, member of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland, as chairman of the commission. [passage omitted]

Article 2: The commission is duty-bound to launch a serious struggle against crimes of sabotage and hoarding basic commodities and to prevent misuse in the distribution of foodstuffs and fuel as well as coupon commodities.

Article 3: The commission is duty-bound to assess the norms and reserve quantities of basic foodstuffs and fuel and, if they require amendment, they should take action in accordance with Article 2 of the law on prevention of hoarding.

Article 4: The commission is duty-bound to create a careful mechanism to control the above measures and secure their implementation.

Article 5: The commission, to secure the application of the instances embodied in this decree, is duty-bound to catch and hand over transgressors and abusers to the clutches of the law as soon as possible through detection, investigation offices, and prosecuting organs and to inform the people about the performance of the relevant organs.

Article 6: The relevant courts are commissioned to consider the dossiers remitted to them in a short time in accordance with the country's law and to render decisions.

Article 7: The commission is duty-bound to take necessary measures to implement the provisions of this decree and those issues requiring the decision of the Supreme

Defense Council of the Homeland or requiring the presidency's instructions or issuing of decrees, they should be presented as soon as possible for action.

Article 8: To organize the timely performances of the commission, relevant working parties should be set up in the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan and the attorney general's office under the chairmanship of a member of this commission.

Article 9: To realize the above objectives, the commission must attract the cooperation of the relevant government organs and make necessary use of efforts by social organizations and subjects as well as the possibilities of private investors.

Article 10: The commission is duty-bound to report monthly about its performances to the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on War, Reconstruction

LD1811202989 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 18 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, 18 Nov, BAKHTAR—Some time ago, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, granted Perasiun [name as received], a Swedish journalist, an interview, and answered his questions. Here is the text of this interview:

Question: In the West the party and government of Afghanistan are being recognized as communist. Inside Afghanistan more attention has been paid to Islamic issues. Are your party and government communist, Islamic, or a mixture of both?

Answer: The parties and governments of the developing countries which are not fit to the joke [as received] of the short-sighted and fanatic circles in the West have generally been regarded as communist. The nature of the parties can be worked out from their programs and their composition. The program and composition of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] has never been communist. The April revolution, which became victorious under the leadership of the PDPA, was not and cannot be a socialist revolution. The PDPA is a national, democratic and progressive party which guarantees the interests of all strata and national and patriotic groups in the country. Hasty actions and leftist slogans by a number of individuals and leaders in the past years in no way represent the nature of the PDPA. We have exposed the mistakes at party levels, especially after the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, and we have taken specific measures for their removal. The political system in our country at the present time is a multiparty system, and our economy is a multisector economy, which means that on the state sector side there is a private sector, a cooperative sector, and a mixed sector: Over [?90] percent of foreign trade is in the hands of traders in the private sector.

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan has and will accomplish many tasks for the strengthening of the sacred religion of Islam. This is completely natural, as our party and government have been formed from our Muslim people, and are at the service of our Muslim people. The Islamic shari'a and all Islamic dictates and laws are in force in our courts and in our life, and PDPA members are bound to these dictates and laws.

Question: Some times ago M.S. Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union, said that Berlin issues should be solved in Berlin, not in Moscow. Can you also say that Afghanistan's issues are 100 percent being determined in Kabul, not in Moscow?

Answer: We believe that the issues of Afghanistan should be solved inside Afghanistan in a completely Afghan manner. Our agreement on the complete withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan expresses our belief that we want all issues, including military and war issues, to be solved by Afghans without interference from outside. We want the Afghans themselves to determine their own destiny, and the destiny of Afghanistan should be determined by its people. The Soviets do not interfere in Afghanistan's affairs, especially since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Interference in the affairs of Afghanistan is regrettably performed from other places, particularly from Pakistan, which does not allow the Afghans to determine their own issues and destiny inside their own country. The creation of the so-called provisional Afghan government in Rawalpindi under the supervision of specific Pakistani authorities, as well as efforts for the installation of this government inside Afghanistan, is a clear example of this interference. You can see how Pakistani militarists and their international supporters want to solve Afghan issues in Islamabad and Washington.

Question: The world's public expects that the issue of Afghanistan will be solved by peaceful means, not by war. The United States and Pakistan also have pointed to a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue. Iran's view has been changed concerning your government. What is your opinion and your proposal for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan? Are you ready to share power with the mujahidin, or in the event of defeat in a free elections, to step down without resistance and hand over power to the mujahidin?

Answer: Our recent proposal for peace, which was presented in the ninth conference of the heads of nonaligned countries, held in Belgrade, is clear and obvious. We have also proposed the commencement of talks and dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and all organizations and groups of the opposition who want peace, the convocation of a nationwide peace conference with the participation of all belligerent parties involved the conflict, the declaration of a cease-fire for 6 months, the creation of a leadership delegation composed of the representatives of groups and parties taking part in a peace conference, the formation of a commission for drafting the new constitution

and election law, the creation of a broad-based coalition government, the convocation of a grand assembly the endorsement of the constitution and election law, the holding of general elections, the formation of a government by a winning party, or a coalition, as well as the setting up of an international conference to determine and guarantee the permanent nonaligned status and demilitarization of Afghanistan.

The setting up of a regional conference for seeking a political solution for the problems of Afghanistan is also included in the peace plan of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It must be pointed out that our recent peace proposal is not only welcomed inside the country, but by international gatherings, particularly by the overwhelming majority of the nonaligned countries in the Belgrade conference.

This peace plan not only secures the interests of all groups, parties, and political-military Afghan organizations inside and outside the country, but also secures the legitimate interests of all countries involved in the issue of Afghanistan. Moreover, this plan is also supported by a noticeable number of the commanders inside the country and individual Afghans outside the country. We will continue our efforts for the realisation of this plan.

Question: Could you tell me how much of Afghanistan's territory is under the control of the security forces?

Answer: State sovereignty is ensured over all the cities, a large part of the country, and the highways. It should be mentioned that the Republic of Afghanistan has declared a number of specific regions and areas, particularly those located along the south and southeast borders, as peace zones and nonmilitary regions to implement fully and accurately the Geneva accords, while creating more facilities for those compatriots who return home from abroad. It withdrew the armed forces from those regions so that the returnees could return in peace. However, a number of these regions have been occupied by the extremists with the assistance of Pakistan. The aforementioned groups, immediately after the occupation of these regions, burned state establishments and public properties. In the regions under the influence of the armed opposition groups there is no law but the law of the jungle—that is, the law of force. There, the armed opposition groups are fighting each other and also the people. The occupation of the majority of the groups' leaders is to produce and trade in narcotics.

Question: What is your view about the United States? In your view, how can relations between Afghanistan and the United States become normal?

Answer: The existing political-military realities in Afghanistan require that basic changes should be created in U.S. policy regarding Afghanistan. Not only do we have such a hope, but even the social, political, and cultural personalities and circles, as well as the mass media of the United States, are demanding that President Bush reconsider his policy concerning Afghanistan. We believe that the United States, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords, should observe the accord documents, which it signed, and halt military assistance to the armed opposition of the Republic of Afghanistan. Such a measure by the United States could become a good base for bilateral relations to return to normal. Afghans have a feeling of good will toward the United States as a superpower and as a civilized country. But, when every day a large number of people of our country are being killed as a result of fire by rockets and other deadly U.S. weapons, it increasingly causes our people to have a feeling of hatred toward the United States.

Question: What type of assistance can the neutral countries, such as Sweden, offer in this regard?

Answer: Neutral countries such as Sweden, which follows democratic traditions and a policy of peace among nations, could render assistance in various spheres. These countries can pave the way for a political solution of the Afghanistan issue by putting pressure on those groups that stubbornly oppose ensuring peace in Afghanistan and those countries that are involved in the Afghanistan issue. They can accelerate the process of ensuring peace via the United Nations and other international and regional societies as the great forces in favor of peace. On the other hand, as our country has an urgent need for reconstruction following the several-years-old imposed war, the neutral countries, including Sweden, also could render notable assistance to Afghanistan.

Question: There is no party or government that does not make mistakes. In your view, what has been the greatest mistake by the PDPA, which is in charge of the government?

Answer: Each country has its own special condition. Obviously, with the complicated situation in our country, some mistakes have taken place. As far as it concerns the party and state leadership, we have taken specific measures and steps in the framework of national reconciliation against mistakes which emanated from the fact of a monopoly of power and the haste that took place in the early period of the revolution. The most important of these measures is political pluralism and the several-party system, the enforcement of a new constitution—one which guarantees the interest of all groups, strata, tribes and nationalities within the country—the promotion of a multisector economy, the encouragement of private foreign and domestic investment, the reorganization of land and water resources, and the drafting of a peace plan.

Question: Is it true that party members have more privileges than other people?

Answer: Party members do not have any special privileges. Party members, if they are working in the state departments or in the armed forces, and/or working as professional party workers, have the same rights and privileges as the other subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan. Party members fight in the front line of the

defense of the homeland and peace and are being martyred. On the frontline of the defense of the homeland we have lost members of the Central Committee, including generals, who are the members of the party. This is the greatest test for patriotism and serving the people.

Question: Prior to becoming the president of Afghanistan, you were the head of Afghanistan's state security organization, Khad. What is your view about the ways this oganization works?

Answer: I want to correct your question. Prior to becoming the president I was general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. Before that I worked as member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. Before that I was, for a time, head of the state security department. The state security department was formed after the April revolution as a responsible organ for national security. It was in charge of very difficult and complicated tasks under unusual conditions—that is, the conditions of war. Khad, which was later promoted to the Ministry of State Security, has carried out great duties in protecting and consolidating the gains of the revolution and the independent and national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. On hundreds of occasions, the brave and self-sacrificing personnel of the Ministry of State Security saved the lives of women, children, and other compatriots, protecting them from the terroristic and criminal acts conducted by the murderers and extremist groups stationed in Peshawar. Also, accepting the fact that they will lose their lives, they have foiled sinister plans, plots, and actions of the intelligence network and the destructive circles of Pakistani militarists. In many cases they have carried out great duties for their country as soldiers, up to the limit of sacrifice. Today the Ministry of State Security at the frontline and the armed forces carry out with honor and pride the duties of defending the country, fighting against state terrorism, and realizing national reconciliation. It should be said that there might be mistakes and shortcomings in the work of the Ministry of State Security, as in every other department. However, it has proved itself as the honest servant of the people and the country.

Question: Afghanistan is a poor country, and 10 years of war have left little possibility for the country's development. After the establishment of peace, what type of urgent and international assistance will Afghanistan need?

Answer: The imposed war, in addition to destroying hundreds and thousands of children within this country, inflicted tremendous damage on our country's national economy. After the end of the war and the establishment of peace, the people of Afghanstan hope the international community will assist our country in its reconstruction by preparing necessary assistance. Of course, the issue of the reconstruction of the country has various means and spheres, ranging from industry and agriculture to the revival of the cultural and health centers, repair of the highways and other communication lines, and dozens of other fields and spheres, all of which will need the all-around assistance of friendly countries and international societies.

Armed Forces Military Operations 18-19 Nov

LD2111062989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 19, BAKHTAR—Detachments and contingents of the armed forces of the country based in Nangarhar Province repulsed extremists, supported by Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis, attacks on the Chaprahar, Samar Kheyl, Sorkh Road directions and Darunta and Sorkhakan [placename as received] security posts on November 18, 1989, an authorised military source said today.

The armed and air forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in their counter attacks on the enemy's positions wiped out 219 extremists and their supporters from the battle fields during the past 3 days. Two servicemen were killed and 4 others wounded as well.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy including 9 rocket launchers, 5 arms depots, 7 mortar and 4 recoilless guns were destroyed.

Sporadic heavy fires of the enemy against the security posts on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway are still continuing. During the mopping up operations of the armed forces in the vicinities of the highway more than 600 Sacker-20, 20 mortars, 12 strongholds and 13 hideouts of the enemy were demolished.

The detachments of the armed forces stationed in Paktia Province carried out a mopping up operation in several areas of that province, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Muhammad Asef, an active ringleader belonging to Gulbuddin's group was killed in the military operation.

According to another report, armed confrontations have recently happened between Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups in several areas of Takhar Province. As a result of the clashes ninety men of Rabbani group were killed and thirty from the rival groups injured. Likewise, the rival group captured a quantity of arms and munitions belonging to Jamiyat group.

Seven civilians were injured on November 18 inside Behol shrine in Ghazni Province due to rocket attacks made by the extremists. The rocket victims were busy in reciting Koran at Behol shrine praying for the [passage indistinct] Sayaf group has transferred its headquarters to Tari Mangal of Pakistan. Even there they were faced with the opposition of the rival groups and 15 men of Sayaf group were killed as a result of planting mines by its rival group there.

According to another report the Kabul-Hayratan highway which was blocked by the extremists in some areas in Salang a short while ago was reopened by the armed forces lately.

During the past three days 1020 vehicles of foodstuffs and other essential goods arrived in Kabul.

Token Surrender in Remote, War-Free Province

BK2211020989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0137 GMT 22 Nov 89

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Qal'eh-ye Now, Afghanistan, Nov 22 (AFP)—Some 400 heavily-armed resistance guerrillas gathered in a large meadow near this sleepy town at the weekend and formally pledged allegiance to the government they had stopped fighting four years ago.

Reporters were flown Sunday [19 November] to Qal'eh-ye Now, capital of remote Badghis Province in northwest Afghanistan, to witness the colourful performance kicked off by sacrificing a goat beside the clay-baked houses of Chasna Duyak village.

Governor Haji Abdullah of Badghis Province—which like other northern provinces was hit by a locust plague three months ago—said the ceremony capped months of negotiation.

A line of 150 men on horseback, brandising AK-47s and wrapped in bandoliers, and 250 men on foot with heavier weapons and assault rifles, greeted visitors after a bumpy 30-minute drive along an almost dry riverbed.

The men, who belonged to Afghanistan's Pakistan-based resistance alliance, would receive monthly wages of 4,000 to 10,000 afghanis (10 to 25 dollars) and grants of land in the rolling hills, officials said.

Mr. Abdullah said 1,000 armed men and 5,000 unarmed guerrillas from 40 villages in the province of 420,000 had formally agreed to end their jihad (holy war) against the pro-Moscow government and join security units.

(But two days after the press trip, the official media said 2,000 armed men and more than 14,000 unarmed had "joined the police of national reconciliation.")

One analyst noted that there had been little fighting in Badghis in recent years and said the men who formally surrendered had most likely been on the government side for a long time.

In its ongoing conflict with the resistance, government policy in the past months has been to maintain control over communications links, major cities and strategic areas.

In other areas, it has tried to strike deals with local tribal chiefs, giving them food, arms and other benefits to maintain the peace in what one Kabul diplomat described as a policy of "live and let live."

Mr. Abdullah said there had been heavy fighting until 1985 when the guerrillas, mostly farmers in this mainly agricultural area, decided to stop fighting.

He said the resistance sought a peace pact that would enable it to benefit from growing cross-border trade after the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed in February.

They had taken so long to join the government and end their struggle in the province, where a Soviet battalion of 800 plus men had been stationed, because of the uncompromising attitude of their leader, Nek Mohammad Moalem, who was killed in May, he said.

Guerrillas questioned said they had fought from bases in caves and hilly terrain, where horses are the best form of transport.

One young moustachioed guerrilla said he had kept on the struggle "because the Soviet troops were here."

Before the government launched its policy of national reconciliation two years ago, security posts peppered the hills overlooking this town of 40,000.

Now, children play by a trickling stream, and only the sentries at the airport and the occassional troops carriers are reminders of the civil war that still rages in other parts of the country.

Rebel Successes in Faryab, Jowzjan Reported

BK2211024189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured a strategically important headquarters in Qeysar District of Faryab Province in an operation which lasted for 1 and ½ months. A helicopter which was bombing mujahidin positions was shot down, killing its crew. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also seized. Mujahidin sources say that the mujahidin now exercise control over the entire Qeysar District, except for an area that is also coming under heavy attack.

In Jowzjan Province the mujahidin captured a military post. They have broken the security net around Kabul and have attacked outposts at Kuh-e Safi, killing 40 Kabul regime troops, including some officers, and capturing 38 others.

In view of increasing attacks by the mujahidin, the Kabul regime has extended the state of emergency for another 6 months.

India

Snap Poll Shows Election 'Disaster' for Gandhi

BK2011083289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 20 (AFP)—A second snap survey in one week has predicted disaster for India's Prime

Minister Rajiv Gandhi saying his Congress (I) would not win enough seats in upcoming general elections to form a government.

The Marketing and Research Group (MARG), run by India's top psephologist Pronnoy Roy, in its opinion poll said the Congress (I) could win only 195 of the 524 seats up for grabs in Parliament.

The MARG results were published Monday in the fortnightly INDIA TODAY magazine as campaigning officially ended for 221 parliamentary seats in 15 states, including 85 in crucial northern Uttar Pradesh State which has given India five of its six prime ministers in the last eight general elections.

The survey was carried out in 37 unnamed constituencies between November 12 and 16 with 10,710 respondents, 8,244 of them from the countryside. It showed that if elections had been held at the time of the survey the Congress (I)'s performance would have been the poorest since 1977.

The Congress (I) gained only 154 seats in 1977, but riding a giant sympathy wave following his mother's assassination, Mr. Gandhi emerged victorious from the 1984 elections with a thumping majority of 400-plus seats.

INDIA TODAY said some 200 MARG interviewers covered 250 locations and reported noticeable "poll swings and considerable indecisiveness" that could alter the final outcome of the elections.

A small percentage swing in votes to the opposition before polling day would be crucial as even a one per cent tilt could effect 15 seats, the survey said.

It said an expected eight to nine per cent swing away from the ruling party could account for a loss of 160 seats to Mr. Gandhi, adding that the new opposition unity, especially in the country's vital north, may earn the opposition a "bonus" of 60 seats.

"We do not agree that surveys decide elections. It is the people who decides," Congress (I) Spokesman Anand Sharma said referring to the MARG survey.

He said similar surveys had predicted 200 seats for the Congress (I) in the 1984 elections, but the results proved the snap polls completely wrong.

"By now the people have become fully aware of the regional character of the Janata Dal and the fact that the opposition alliance represented by the National Front-Dal combine is inherently unstable and self-destructive. The Congress (I) will form the government comfortably," Mr. Sharma said.

An estimated 500 million voters are eligible to select from 200 contesting parties and 6,000 candidates in the world's largest electoral process on November 22, 24 and 26. Final results are expected to be out by November 29 at the latest.

The Congress (I) requires 265 seats in the elections to form a government without the help of independents or allies.

"With around 200 seats, the Congress (I) would remain the largest single party, but the combined tally of the National Front (five-party opposition alliance) could be about the same."

"Based on these figures, a hung Parliament seems to be an inevitable outcome," the survey said.

The centrist Janata Dal, the largest partner in the National Front, is contesting 315 seats while the Congress (I) is fighting most seats. The Dal hopes to form a government with the help of its leftwing and rightwing allies in the two year-old front.

The MARG survey is the second in one week to predict electoral disaster for Mr. Gandhi's party which is plagued by nagging allegations of corruption over defence deals.

The usually pro-Gandhi SUNDAY magazine last week said the 104-year-old Congress Party, which has dominated India's political arena since the country's independence in 1947, would win only 180 to 240 seats— less than the 50 per cent needed to form a government in a house of 545.

But the Congress (I) also predicted last weekend a return to power with a two-thirds majority, claiming a popular wave in its favour.

AFP Reports Election-Eve Violence in India

BK2111165189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—A rash of bombs exploded in northern Kashmir and an assembly candidate was among three people murdered in election-eve violence across India Tuesday as fresh troops were rushed to trouble-prone areas.

In the capital a 30-year-old laborer pasting up posters of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party was stabbed to death, while in southern Karnataka unknown gunmen shot dead an independent State Assembly candidate, M.P. Jayaraj, at point blank range with a pistol in Bangalore city.

Police said Mr. Jayaraj had been bailed out of jail to run for election. He had been charged with attempted murder.

The third death, that of a Congress (I) worker, was reported from Tripura State, where initial reports said Communist Party workers had attacked Congress supporters with a home-made bomb killing one and wounding two, bringing pre-poll deaths in the state to three.

The dead youth was identified as a mill worker.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) denied involvement in the attack and said six of its own people had been stabbed and another nine hospitalized.

In Kashmir, where Muslim militants have called for a boycott of the vote, two persons were injured in at least 20 bombings Tuesday and five government schools designated as polling areas blown up, reports from Srinagar said.

The schools were closed and no casualties reported. A prominent Kashmiri businessman and his son were shot and seriously injured in Srinagar, though it was not clear whether the shootings were directly linked to the national elections which start Wednesday and continue until November 26.

In southern Tamil Nadu State unidentified persons blew up a seven-foot statue of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, India's first Prime Minister Jawarhalal Nehru.

In New Delhi the election commission announced late Tuesday that federal reinforcements had been rushed to three districts in neighbouring Haryana State, in response to opposition fears of widespread "booth capturing."

The commission also said it was moving a special tent headquarters to Bihar State, notorious for poll violence, in preparation for the first of three days of staggered polling starting Wednesday in 15 states and five union territories including the capital.

An election official said officials manning the tent camp would travel wherever complaints arose and order an immediate repoll if necessary.

7 Killed in Punjab; Army Deployment Urged

BK2111145389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including two terrorists and a BSF [Border Security Force] jawan [soldier] have been killed since last night. One of those killed was a terrorist, who has been identified as Avtar Singh, alias (Talit). He was wanted by the police for his involvement in a large number of terrorist crimes.

The president of the Akali Dal Peruman [Sikh religious group], Mahant Seva Das, has condemned the killings of innocent people by the terrorists in Punjab. In a statement in New Delhi today, he appealed to the prime minister to deploy the army in Punjab to ensure free and fair polls.

Opposition Asks President To Dissolve Lok Sabha

BK2111134089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—India's opposition Tuesday [21 November] asked President Ramaswamy Venkataraman to dissolve the lower house of parliament, and expressed fears of horse trading after elections if this was not done.

The rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian People's Party) and the five-party National Front, the main opposition alliance, said they planned to make a formal request to the 75-year-old president.

BJP President Lal Krishna Advani said there was "no earthly reason" for the eighth Lok Sabha, or lower house, to remain in office with national general elections for the ninth Lok Sabha scheduled from Wednesday.

Mr. Advani told reporters here that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party may try engineering defections of victorious opposition candidates if it did not win a majority and if the Lok Sabha was not dissolved.

He said an anti-defection law enacted in 1985 could be interpreted to read that only a member of parliament, and not a member-elect, would be disqualified if he resigned from the party under whose banner he was elected without having the backing of one third of his colleagues.

Mr. Advani said he was confident that the Congress (I) would lose the November 22-24-26 ballot, "(but) I am not sure about any party getting absolute majority.

"(So) the president has an obligation to the country to ensure that the law against defection is not violated with impunity by horse trading," he added.

Mr. Advani's statement came as analysts predicted a neck-and-neck finish for the main contenders in India's elections and that President Venkataraman would invite the leader who commands the majority support to form a new government.

Asked why he feared post-poll defections, the BJP chief said: "I do not trust this government. It has no qualms, no scruples. This government violates all democratic norms."

But he said he did not fear defections from the cadre-based BJP, which is contesting 204 seats. He declined to specify from which oppositon party he feared defections to the Congress (I) in the event of a hung parliament.

National Front Spokesman Dinesh Goswami also told reporters here that the centrist alliance would urge the president to dissolve the current Lok Sabha by the time the first election results started coming in.

Elections to the 545-member Lok Sabha take place once in five years.

Gandhi's Party Makes '11th Hour' Bid

BK2111152389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1510 GMT 21 Nov 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, whose prospects of winning another five-year term have been written off by many political pundits, made a last, 11th hour attempt Tuesday to be heard in its bid for a new mandate.

"Once again, the nation is at a cross-roads," a poll-eve Congress (I) statement said. "Peace and order, unity and stability, progress and development stand threatened by regionalism, casteism and communalism."

The statement, issued by the party high command, claimed that Congress (I) was the only political force capable of ensuring stability, uniting the people, safeguarding the national interest and leading India to progress.

Party Spokesman Anand Sharma, who released the statement at a press briefing, described the choice before the electorate in this week's general election as one between order and disorder, stability and instability.

Mr. Sharma charged that a loosely-knit opposition alliance called the National Front represented a "crumbling platform of personal ambitions upon which a collection of opposition parties has sought to prop up a facade of unity."

He said this platform was "about to crash," adding: "The fall-out for the nation, in the hands of these people, would be nothing short of anarchy in which the common citizen will suffer the most."

The spokesman described the National Front, which groups five centrist parties and has emerged as the main threat to the 104-year-old Congress, as "bankrupt on policies, but rich in baseless accusations and empty rhetoric."

The charge was a reference to the Front's election campaign, which has been centered on allegations of corruption surrounding Mr. Gandhi's government, notably a raging arms deal kickback scandal.

Mr. Sharma said the opposition had wasted the nation's time and energy by using corruption as a political charge without evidence to back up allegations that Congress (I) figures had taken kickbacks.

"Please, let us be reasonable," he said. "We have a better track record in fighting corruption than anyone else" and cited instances where Congress functionaries had been asked to quit after charges had been proved against them.

In contrast, he mentioned strictures passed by a court against National Front President N.T. Rama Rao on charges of corruption and nepotism. Mr. Rama Rao continues to rule the southern State of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Sharma called the National Front a "marriage of convenience" which he predicted would soon end in "acrimonious divorce."

"The Congress is the only national party today with one leader, one ideology and disciplined organisation," he added.

The statement followed opinion polls and newspaper commentaries which have predicted a defeat for the Congress (I) in the general elections, giving the opposition its best chance of forming a government in New Delhi since 1977.

In 1977, traditionally fractured opposition parties dissolved themselves, shedding their separate identities to merge into a unified group called Janata Party. The Janata won but its government fell apart and handed power back to the Congress (I) in 1980 elections.

This time the National Front constituents have maintained their separate identities, and relied on seat sharing arrangements to try to oust the Congress (I).

Election Phases Detailed; Security Tightened

BK2111163289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The stage is set for the first phase of polling tomorrow in 221 of the 524 Lok Sabha constituencies spread over 15 states and 5 union territories. Polling will also be held tomorrow in 569 assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and in parts of Uttar Pradesh. In 12 states—Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Predesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Tripura—polling will be completed tomorrow. It will be partial in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. The five union territories going to the polls tomorrow are Delhi, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Daman and Diu.

One lakh central police force has been deployed for peaceful conduct of the polls. This is in addition to the state police personnel. Tight security arrangements have also been made in sensitive constituencies in seven states. Special measures have been taken in Naxalite-infested districts [districts infested with left-wing extremists] of Andhra Pradesh. Thirty-seven lakh polling officials have been deployed to man six lakh polling booths. Central and state observers appointed by the election commission have reached their destinations. Two central and 13 state observers have been appointed for Punjab, which goes to the polls on Sunday [26 November]. About 20 crore of the total 50 crore voters will decide the fate of over 2,500 candidates in tomorrow's elections.

The polling time has been extended to nine hours this time to accommodate the expanded electorate, which include new voters in the 18 to 21 years-age group.

Polling in Jayanagar assembly constituency in Bangalore urban district has been countermanded following the death of an independent candidate. Police sources said the candidate, Mr M.P. Jayaraj, was shot dead by some

unknown persons in Bangalore today morning. Jayanagar is the second constituency in Karnataka where assembly election has been countermanded, the first being Mundargi in Dharwar District.

Election in Secunderabad assembly constituency of Uttar Pradesh was also countermanded today following the death of an independent candidate. As reported earlier, elections in Nanpara, Khekra, and Chandpur assembly constituencies in the state has been countermanded.

The second phase of elections will be held in 10 [as heard] states and two union territories. They are Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir and the union territories of Pondicherry, and Dadra and Nagar Heveli. Bihar will have elections in 31 out of the 54 constituencies. Assembly elections to Karnataka will also take place on that day. Electioneering ends in these states and union territories tomorrow evening. The final phase of polling will be held on Sunday. Punjab and Sikkim and 23 remaining constituencies of Bihar will go to the polls on that day. Sikkim will also have assembly elections.

Polling will be held from 0700 in the morning to 1600 in the evening in Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab, Orissa, and Tripura and from 0730 in the morning to 1630 in the evening in Mizoram, Nagaland, and West Bengal. In other states, the hours of polling will be from 0800 in the morning to 1700 in the evening.

The election commission said today that booth-capturing is an offense under the amended Representation of the People Act 1951. The deputy election commissioner, Dr R.P. Bhalla, said in New Delhi today that any person found guilty of booth-capturing can be imprisoned for a period ranging between 6 months and 2 years. If he is a government servant, the imprisonment can range between 1 year and 3 years with a fine. For candidates, it will amount to a corrupt practice and can lead to his disqualification from contesting the elections for 6 years. Dr Bhalla also said that a camp office of the election commission will be set up at Patna. Mr S.K. Mendi Rata, secretary in the election commission, will be the in-charge of the camp office. Dr Bhalla said the government has agreed to send more central security personnel to Haryana to be deployed in Bhivani, Faridabad, and Rohtak constituencies at the request of the state Janata Dal leaders.

Delhi police has made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order during the polling in the union territory tomorrow. It has warned the people against any suspicious looking persons and unattended objects lying at public places.

Reportage on First Day of Lok Sabha Polling

'Good Turnout' in First Round

BK2211033089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The first round of polling for the ninth Lok Sabha and five state assemblies has begun. Out of 524 Lok Sabha constituencies for which elections are being held, voters in 221 constituencies spread over 15 states and 5 union territories are expected to exercise their franchise today. Polling is also being held in 569 assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, and parts of Uttar Pradesh. [passage omitted]

In Himachal Pradesh, election is being held in tribal areas of Kinnaur, Lahul and Spiti and Fangi for the first time in the winter season. According to reports reaching the state headquarters, though the minimum temperature in these areas varies from -4 to -9 degrees, the weather is absolutely clear today.

After visiting some of the polling booths in and around Agartala, our correspondent reports that voters were seen in long queues well ahead of the start of the polling. In Mizoram, polling began with a good turnout of voters. In and around Aijal Town long queues were seen before the start of the poll. A team of All India Radio correspondents after going round the Kohima Town of Nagaland reports that the chilly weather did not dampen the spirit of the voters who have lined up in the polling booths to exercise their franchise.

Our Chandigarh correspondent after visiting rural and labor colonies reports that people, mostly farmers and laborers, have already collected at the polling stations to cast their votes. In Bhubaneshwar, most of the early voters are in the age group of 18 to 21.

In Delhi, polling began on a dull note, though long queues were seen outside the polling booths in some outlying areas since early morning despite chilly weather.

Further on Polling

BK2211092089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Moderate to brisk polling has been reported in the first stage of elections today for 221 of the 524 Lok Sabha seats spread over 15 states and five union territories. Reports from the states say about 20 to 35 percent voters exercised their franchise by mid-day. The polling has been generally peaceful and the young voters are showing tremendous enthusiasm in exercising their new found voting right. Polling is also being held today for 568 assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, Goa and parts of Uttar Pradesh.

In the capital, about 30 percent of the votes have so far been cast in the seven Lok Sabha constituencies. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was among the early voters at the race course polling booth in New Delhi

constituency. A team of All India Radio correspondents who went round the city reports that there have been turnouts [waiting lines out the door] in Chandani Chowk and the outer Delhi constituencies, while in some parts of the walled city one vote was cast per minute during the first hour.

Our special correspondent who went round various polling booths in the capital says a noteworthy feature of the polling was that voters of different age-groups were seen walking straight into the polling centers without going to the temporary election offices put up by the respective contestants. It was indicative of the voters confidence and maturity. When questioned a voter in his 50's told our special correspondent that he had voted in all the elections and was proud to exercise his franchise in the world's biggest democracy.

Reports from Lucknow say braving cold weather people turned up in large numbers at various polling booths. About 20 percent of the votes has been polled in the first 4 hours in Lucknow and Kanpur. Thirty to thirty-five percent of the votes were polled in the major parliamentary constituencies till mid-day.

In Rajasthan, polling began on a dull note but picked up momentum as the day progressed. In some areas of Jaipur, 25 to 40 percent votes were cast by noon.

In Himachal Pradesh, about 40 percent of the votes has been cast till noon and women outnumbered men at the queues before the polling booths. For the lone parliamentary seat from Chandigarh, polling was moderate in the beginning, but later picked up pace.

Reports from Madhya Pradesh speak of moderate to heavy turn out in most areas. Great enthusiasm was noted among the younger voters and the tribals.

In Jammu and Kashmir, 20 percent of the votes had been cast in the Ladakh constituency till noon. Braving minus 10 degree celsius temperature, people came out in traditional dress to exercise their franchise. Reports from northeastern states also speak of moderate to brisk polling. In Nagaland, it was about 35 percent till noon, in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura about 40 percent.

In Tripura, one person was killed and two others injured in a bomb blast this morning in a village under the Vishalgarh police station, about 25 km from Agartala.

In Orissa, 30 to 35 percent polling has been reported till mid-day. In both urban and rural areas, booth after booth witnessed enthusiastic young men and women queueing up before the polling stations. In Andhra Pradesh also about 35 percent of the votes were polled in the first 4 hours. [passage omitted]

Poll Statistics From Various States

BK2211160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Moderate to heavy polling has been reported in the first phase of elections today for the 221 of the 524 Lok Sabha seats spread over 15 states and 5 union territories. While Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, and the union territories of Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Daman and Diu recorded 70 to 75 percent of polling; Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh recorded 60 to 65 percent of polling. It was, however, 50 to 55 percent in Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa. [passage omitted]

Reports of Violence in Polling

BK2211131189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Moderate to brisk polling has been reported in the first phase of elections today for 221 of the 524 Lok Sabha seats, spread over 15 states and 5 union territories. Reports from states say about 40 to 50 percent of voters exercised their franchise up to 1500. The polling has been generally peaceful, but there have been some reports of violence in some states. [passage omitted]

In Andhra Pradesh, moderate to heavy polling has been reported for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections amidst incidents of violence resulting in the death of 10 persons. In Cuddapah District, six people died and many were injured as rival party workers clashed and fired at each other at various places. Reports of violence have also come in from six more districts. Polling had to be suspended at many places following clashes and snatching away of election material. Repolling has been ordered at many polling stations in these areas. As already reported, elections to Raikode assembly constituency had been countermanded following the murder of an independent candidate today morning.

In Uttar Pradesh, about 40 percent of voters had cast their votes by this afternoon in the Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies. In Barod polling station in Baghpat parliamentary constituency, three persons were killed in clashes between rival political groups. The dead included a home guard on duty.

In Haryana, about 45 percent of polling has taken place up to 1600. The state chief secretary told our Chandigarh correspondent that four persons were killed and two seriously injured in Bhiwani and Hissar constituencies when some miscreants opened fire. In (Hasi), three persons were injured in violent incidents. [passage omitted]

BBC Reports Violence

BK2211124589 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Nov 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] We begin with the general election in India, where some 500 million people are voting over the next 3 days. The opposition candidate in the prime minister's constituency, Mr Rajmohan Gandhi, called for a new poll to be held there after allegations of ballot rigging. Richard Welsh reports from Delhi that at least 10 people have been killed so far, including 3 who died in gun battles between the rival supporters in the state of Haryana.

[Begin Welsh recording] There are reports of killings from four Indian states. In Haryana, groups of gunmen are reported to have opened fire indiscriminately on polling stations in three constituencies. Sten guns and Chinese-made assault rifles are understood to have been used. Of four people known to have died, one was a woman. There are reports of people being shot dead in the state of Andhra Pradesh, where a polling officer had his hand chopped off. And in Tripura, in the Northeast, the Communist Party, the CPI-M, has called on the election commission to abandon voting because of widespread ballot rigging. Three hundred and forty polling stations are claimed to have been captured by gangs supporting rival parties.

In Uttar Pradesh, on a tour of polling stations, I saw the bodies of 2 men who were gunned down by a group of at least 20 which held up an election officer. The polling station has been closed.

In addition to those who have died, there are reports of many injuries from several parts of the country.

In the constituency of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, his main opponent, Rajmohan Gandhi, says he was attacked by rival supporters after he claimed that false votes (?have been) cast with the connivance of local police.

Two hundred million voters have been asked to cast their votes today, which is the first of 3 days of polling. The last is on Sunday [26 November], and the results are expected to begin emerging on Sunday evening. [end recording]

Opposition Alleges Congress (I) Vote-Rigging

BK2211105589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (AFP)—The opposition candidate fighting Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in his Amethi constituency Wednesday [22 November] accused the ruling party of rigging the ballot "on a massive scale" after terrorising his supporters.

Rajmohan Gandhi, who is trying to halt the premier's re-election bid, alleged that Congress (I) party workers had "captured" nearly 60 voting centres and stuffed ballot boxes with prestamped votes favouring the prime minister.

A spokesman for Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi said by telephone from Amethi, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, that Congress (I) workers had also attacked and beaten up several opposition supporters, four of whom were in critical condition.

"This is an obvious attempt to ensure the victory of Rajiv Gandhi," the spokesman said. "Congress (I) people are forcibly entering polling booths after going around in jeeps firing in the air and throwing bombs to scare away voters."

He said the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), which has fielded Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi, had lodged a complaint with the Election Commission but added that "nothing has been done to stop all this."

The worst violence allegedly occurred in Amethi's Jagdishpur area, from where Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi had asked his party workers to withdraw after he himself was manhandled by police, the spokesman said. More than 150 polling booths are located in Jagdishpur.

The spokesman blamed the police for the "massive rigging," which he claimed had begun overnight Tuesday under the supervision of a local police officer.

No immediate reaction was available from the Congress (I). Election Commission officials told the Janata Dal they were investigating the allegation.

Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi, a former journalist and author, is a grandson of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, who along with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru spearheaded India's fight for independence from British rule.

Communists To Back 'Friendly Government'

BK2211055889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0528 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (AFP)—Indian communists will support "a friendly government" if the centrist opposition wins the parliamentary elections beginning Wednesday [22 November], a leading Marxist figure has said.

Newspapers quoted Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Jyoti Basu as telling reporters in Calcutta late Tuesday that his party favoured supporting a government of the Centrist National Front.

The five-party front is the main opposition alliance challenging Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in nation-wide elections spread over Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

It has a loose alliance with both right-wing and leftist parties.

"We have decided to support such a friendly government from outside and remain a powerful force," said Mr. Basu, chief minister of eastern West Bengal, one of India's two states controlled by communists.

Asked if his party would consider joining a possible front government, Mr. Basu said "it will depend on how circumstances change."

Mr. Basu, India's most charismatic leftist leader, said the CPI (M) would not support the Congress (I) even if it emerged as the single largest group in parliament after the polls, widely expected to see a neck-and-neck finish.

"We were not opposing Mr. Gandhi and his party all these years just to form a coalition government with them," the HINDUSTAN TIMES and other newspapers quoted Mr. Basu as saying. "We are not going to scale down our ideology."

Indian communists have controlled up to three state governments so far in India, but have never taken part in a government in the centre, though they have extended support to the Congress Party in New Delhi in the past.

The CPI (M), the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India and two smaller leftist groups are together contesting in some 120 constituencies.

Iran

Kharrazi Urges United Nations To Change 'Strategy'

LD2211093889 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 22 Nov

[Text] United Nations, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran will not bargain on implementation of the Resolution 598, said Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar here Tuesday.

Kharrazi said that the Security Council and the United Nations should change their strategy on Iran-Iraq talks.

The two discussed outcome of the recent visits to Tehran and Baghdad of De Cuellar's special envoy Jan Eliasson and the procedure of the peace talks.

Kharrazi said that the course of the 17-day long shuttle visits of Eliasson and the outcome of his talks with Iranian and Iraqi officials further proved that Iraq has been hampering the peace efforts.

More on the Iraqi hindering moves, he said that 15 months after the enforcement of ceasefire between the two countries, Iraq is still unwilling to cooperate with the secretary general and the United Nations to take the talks forward.

The outcome of Eliasson's visit should make the secretary general and the United Nations revise its attitude towards Iraq because their previous strategy has failed to produce acceptable results.

On the recent prerequisite set by Baghdad conditioning Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian occupied territories on Iran's acceptance of Iraq's sovereignty on Arvand River, he said the Iraqi regime wanted to ruin the resolution with such claims. "From the international point of view Iran's sovereignty on half of the Arvand River is unquestionable," Kharrazi stressed.

He added that Eliasson's visit proved Iran's cooperative nature towards De Cuellar and the United Nations aimed at taking the talks forward.

"Iran's acceptance of the latest proposal on simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territories and exchange of POWS indicated Iran's good-will more than ever," he stressed.

Warning against the Iraqi regime's hampering moves, Kharrazi urged De Cuellar that his report to the Security Council on Eliasson's mission must reflect realities.

The secretary general reaffirmed his commitment to full implementation of the resolution and expressed the hope to work to this end.

Iraq Continues To Adopt 'Obstinate Policies'

LD2111212689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1638 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The hasty and inappropriate response of the Iraqi regime to the new plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again demonstrated that regime's responsibility in postponing the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598.

It was proposed in the new plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran that POWs from the two countries be exchanged simultaneously with the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders. The motive behind this suggested plan was to speed up the release of the POWs and to remove the existing dead end in the implementation of Resolution No 598.

As the Security Council is not sincere in following up the implementation of the resolution, the Iraqi regime has found the opportunity to continue its obstructionist tactics by adopting illogical and obstinate policies. The new two-point plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been formulated on the basis of the four-point plan of the [UN] secretary general, can bring about major speeding up in the releasing of the POWs. At the same time, with the implementation of this plan, the framework of Resolution No 598 will remain intact.

This initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, which has the responsibility for following up the implementation of the resolution, provides greater priority to the humane issue of the exchange of POWs. Once again, however, the hasty and ill-advised opposition of the Iraqi regime turned any hope into despair. The reaction of that regime to our country's two-point plan—while once again demonstrating the Iraqi opposition to the implementation of the resolution, as it is

accompanied with new claims—can create new obstacles on the path of the implementation of Resolution No 598.

The foreign minister of the Iraqi regime, while rejecting the plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has claimed the agreement of 1975 no longer is valid, and that it is a dead agreement, Taraq 'Aziz also has said: we will leave the Iranian territory only when Iran admits Iraq's rights over Shatt al-'Arab.

While the stance of the Iraqi regime makes peace efforts difficult, it also has given rise to this pessimism that the peaceful solution of the differences may face defeat. Of course, as the minister of foreign affairs of our country announced yesterday, what Baghdad is saying now—while it is nothing new,—demonstrates that government is not bound by international regulations and norms. The 1975 Algiers Accord is a valid agreement which is registered in the UN, and which has been published as part of the UN documents in 1365 [the Iranian year beginning 21 March 1986].

Therefore, the remarks of the Iraqi minister of foreign affairs or that of any other country does not change anything. They neither add to nor take anything away from the validity of that agreement. This agreement still is intact and provides a basis for recognizing the two countries' rights in Arvand-Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] and the entire borders.

Meanwhile, the important point here is that the Iraqi regime at the moment has made the implementation of the resolution conditional on something which is impossible, and it makes us face a number of options:

First, that the Iraqi regime, under the pressure of the international community and the Security Council, gives up its obstructionism and obstinacy and paves the way for achieving a lasting peace. Of course, the necessary condition for such a thing is that the Security Council shows proper sincerity. If the permanent members of the Security Council truly are anxious to see a political solution to the differences, they should give up their present unacceptable stance and support the implementation of the resolution in practice, because the main reason for the Iraqi regime's obstructionism is its inadequate stance regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598.

The second possibility is that the Iraqi regime will not give up its obstructionism and that the Security Council may not support the resolution, which it initiated and proposed. In that case, one should await long, frutiless games by the Iraqi regime against the implementation of Resolution No 598. As the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot accept for long an indefinite period of occupation of parts of its country, 3 cities and 30 villages, or remain indifferent towards the human issue of the ambiguous status of the POWs—in the first instance she is trying to find a solution to the differences through political talks. However, this does not mean that she [the Islamic Republic of Iran] regards resort to military force as out of the question.

Yesterday, the leader of the Islamic revolution in ceremonies marking the inauguration of the sixth command course of the University of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, referring to the excuses raised by the Iraqi regime in preventing the establishment of complete peace in the region, graciously said: Our defense has not come to an end, because the war has not ended and has not been turned into peace. He emphasized: We have no intention to resort to war, and we do not welcome it. However, if these ignorant acts are threatening, we regard it our duty to maintain our complete, and 100 percent preparedness.

In addition to the maintenance and strengthening of the military capability of the country, which was emphasized yesterday by the leader of the revolution, the enhancement of the economic strength and the strengthening of the productive capabilities of the country are among important duties and responsibilities which should be taken into consideration. A country which enjoys a high level of economic and productive potential and capabilities can demonstrate a much more powerful fighting and military capability.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Defense, Armaments

NC2111124889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0635 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent from "The Voice of the Front" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In his message to the conference of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commanders, the leader of the revolution pointed out we are serious in our efforts to achieve peace within the framework of the UN Security Council resolution and emphasized the need to maintain readiness in the Armed Forces. What is your opinion of the need to strengthen the country's defense structure and the Armed Forces?

[Besharati] We are serious as far as peace is concerned, as the leader of the Islamic Revolution has stated. We do not want to open any new front against any country in any way. We do not want to have differences with countries that may exacerbate tension or create a confrontation.

We have very good relations with many of our neighbors. We had good talks with the Soviets and we achieved good results. We have no problems with Turkey, and the coming days will herald an improvement in our relations. We have the best of relations with Pakistan. Our views on Afghanistan too are known to all. We support the mujahidin and believe that the mujahidin should also consider nonmilitary solutions under the current circumstances. We never wanted to start a war with the Iraqi regime. Despite the 274 ground and air attacks launched before 22 September 1980, we never declared war; it was the Iraqi regime that started a full-scale war along our vast 1,603-km-long border. Of course, Iraq learned the consequences of this impudence.

From now on we will be thinking of reconstruction. We are seeking peace and the reconstruction of our country. We want to be self-sufficient in industry and in agriculture. We want to build a model country in every way possible. Since we are a country with values, we want to show how reliance on and attention to Islamic and divine principles and values can affect individuals and society.

However, all this does not mean we should be naive and assume the superpowers that considered this country their fiefdom will keep their hands off us and off the Islamic revolution. We should strengthen our defense structure for two reasons. The first reason is so no power will entertain thoughts of attacking the Islamic Republic on any pretext. We should be able to count on our Armed Forces, and our Armed Forces should be strengthened in such a way they will terrify the enemies of the Islamic revolution not to attack our territorial integrity. The second reason is that belief in Islamic principles is of vaster dimensions. A system of values requires the defense of that system. The Holy Koran says the prophets were sent in order to establish social justice, but that they also had the necessary weapon in their hands. It is impossible for Islamic laws to be implemented without taking into consideration or without reliance on a suitable power. This is the theoretical side.

As for the practical side, we live in a world of equipment and technology. It is a world of great progress in defense industries. It is a world of weapons and a world of defending dignity and respect. Even though the world is a world of economy, nevertheless this economy can be defended and developed when we have military strength. A system of values such as the Islamic revolution should be equipped with everything it needs. We should identify the threats to our territorial integrity and the system of the Islamic revolution. We have pinpointed all these threats. The policymakers of the Foreign Ministry and our leaders have identified these threats. We, as experts in this, have propounded our views. We know what countries may be incited and what superpowers may use based near us against the Islamic revolution. Therefore, without it being a secret from the world, we are busy equipping ourselves in order to defend ourselves.

We will attempt to receive arms from any country we can while preserving our principles. We use a considerable part of our budget to prepare and strengthen our Armed Forces. The war showed us the dangers of dependence on one source of weapons. Therefore, we will try to get weapons from a variety of sources. We will try to buy arms from any country that wants to sell to us—be this in the East or in the West, in the North or in the South. And we will try to create an acceptable Armed Forces which can be a considerable force in this world in the last years of the 20th century.

Fortunately, the great leader of the revolution has stated his views on this, and it was something the great founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, may God rest his soul, always emphasized. As the students of this great scholar, we have no other path before us. Fortunately, good steps have been taken, and we have achieved good results. With the conclusion of the war, various countries ended their former restrictions on selling arms. The Security Council threatened an arms embargo against us, but we faced an actual unofficial arms embargo in practice. No one sold arms to us. Now that the war has ended and we are seeking peace, there are friendly countries which will sell arms to us in times of peace. I am sure our dear combatants and our dear Armed Forces are aware of this. They should equip themselves with arms, and theoretically speaking, now that the war has ended and there is the opportunity, they should translate and publish military books and make use of the most recent military views and theories that appear in various books and magazines. The Armed Forces should be trained and be strict in this. They should do the best they can in this. Without military technology or theoretic knowledge, we cannot defend the prestige and respect of the Islamic revolution.

Of course, it is preferable for us to be able to use our domestic potential and the many great and noteworthy talents that exist in the country to provide our own arms. It is preferable for us to be able to place this potential at the disposal of these people, and to gather all the talented and bright people and support them, with more than mere slogans and words, so they can—in view of our potential and their own talents—start producing the weapons we need.

I would like to state two points. One is addressed to our own people. They should know all these views and remarks are made so our country never will be a target of aggression, and so our people can rest assured their children and dear ones are defending the respect, territorial integrity, and system of values of the Islamic revolution.

The second point is addressed to the world, which never should take our views as a threat against any country. As the small countries around us have armed themselves to the teeth and buy the most modern war material, we too—as a big and vast country which has been the target of many threats throughout its history and especially during the decade of the Islamic revolution—will do the same. Throughout our history we have been an extremely strong country. During the 4,000 years of our history, we have been one of the rare countries that did not change its name. Iran always has been Iran. There were great empires like the Roman Empire, but they no longer exist. But because of our great culture and our great potential, we always have been a strong and powerful country in the area.

Our combatants are well aware of all this. They should not ignore their studies in the fields that interest them. Reading books on other topics for leisure is all right. But in order to strengthen the bases of the system of the Islamic revolution, we should continuously study things

that are related to our work. I have heard this trend has weakened. But we hope it will be strengthened and receive more support.

'Mutual Cooperation' Pact With Pakistan Signed

LD2111183389 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 21, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan inked a letter of understanding for expansion of mutual cooperation here today. The letter was signed by Iran's Interior Minister Hojjat ol- Eslam Abdollah Nouri and his Pakistani counterpart Aitazaz Ahsan.

The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in anti-drug campaign, and security, economic and political fields. They also stressed on the exchange of different delegations for further strengthening bilateral ties.

Mutual cooperation in international forums and expansion of economic relations within the 3-nation Economic Cooperation Cooperation (ECO) were also emphasized in the letter.

Hoj. Nouri and Aitazaz Ahsan also agreed on establishment of a joint session in the near future to prepare the grounds for resuming the Zahedan-Quetta rail link, and also expansion of postal services in border lines.

The Iranian minister heading a delegation arrived here last Friday [17 November] and has so far held talks with the president, prime minister and foreign minister of Pakistan.

Turkish Embassy To Investigate Torture Reports

LD2111143189 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—The Turkish Embassy is to investigate reports on mistreatment and torture of Iranian students in Turkey by security agents, according to an embassy official.

The embassy's press attache told IRNA today that if the reports were substantiated those responsible would be punished.

He said according to the Turkish Constitution, mistreatment of foreign subjects in Turkey was considered an offence.

According to press reports a number of Iranian students in Turkey have been subjected to intimidation and torture by Turkish security officers on charges of involvement in a car bomb blast which injured a Saudi diplomat in Ankara recently.

* Law To Counter FBI Plans To Arrest Foreigners

90OI0039A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Yesterday morning the Majlis convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Bayat. During this session, after readings of verses from the holy koran, Mr Anzabi, the Tabriz deputy; Mr Aqa-Mohammadi, the Hamadan deputy; and Mr Eftekhari, the Fuman deputy, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, Mr Karrubi gave a talk in which he offered condolences on the death of Ayatollah Shahrudi. Then the Majlis began its agenda.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the proposed law to intensify the confrontation with America's terrorist activities. The double-urgency motion was passed with a large majority.

The second item on the agenda was the law to preserve the works and memory of his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified), all of which was passed by the deputies.

The final item on the agenda was the law to implement articles 85 and 138 of the constitution with regard to the duties of the Majlis speaker, which passed as a single-urgency motion.

Below are printed the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, notes from the deputies to the nation's executive officials, and details on the Majlis proceedings.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Anzabi, the representative of the people of Tabriz. During his talk, he said: The almighty has provided an extraordinary blessing and, through the nation's respected and aware experts, he has given us a leader like Ayatollah Khamene'i, who was with the Imam since the beginning of the Islamic uprising, and never separated from him to the end. During 8 years of sacred defense he was usually at the fronts, with awareness and involvement at high levels both in knowledge and practice in all domestic and foreign political mysteries, and with his unrivalled standing in authenticity and leadership, the almighty God has fully blessed our entire nation with the grace of his gift.

He then added: Our revolution has a special distinction among all the revolutions of the world, and that is that it is 100 percent Islamic. Therefore, its basis and foundation is piety, and this is quite difficult. There is even the well-known saying that the path to heaven is finer than a hair and sharper than a sword, illustrating how difficult this is, yet that is the path of piety. A true Muslim must keep the pleasure of the Almighty in mind in everything he says and does. It is especially incumbent upon the dear Majlis deputies to set an example for others, and to maintain a high level of piety at the public Majlis sessions, in the commissions when proposals are made, in speaking in opposition or in favor, when voting, and

when attending at the scheduled times. Almighty God says: If the people of the cities and the villages have faith in God and are pious, we will open up the blessings of heaven and earth for them and they will live in this world in prosperity and ease before the hereafter.

He added: We are greatly indebted to two great martyrs from both before and after the revolution. The stability of our government is due to the blessing of their pure blood, and their remembrance is a religious obligation. At the top of the list from the noble line of clergymen, who have given a larger share of martyrs in proportion to their numbers, are five of the great Friday imams. The first of these is Martyr Ayatollah Qazi Tabataba'i (May God Elevate Him) from Tabriz, the anniversary of whose martyrdom is tomorrow 10 Aban [1 November]. On 11 Dey 1358 [1 January 1980] hojjat ol-Haram was shot by the hypocrites while returning from the pulpit at his mosque and joined his pure ancestors. Unfortunately, he is not usually mentioned in speeches and writings, and he is not mentioned as the first martyr of the pulpit, yet, like Martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb (May God Be Pleased with Him), who was martyred in prayer, Qazi Tabataba'i was also martyred in prayer, and the services of this esteemed martyr, both before and after the revolution, are worthy of extraordinary praise in every respect.

In previous years, I have discussed some of these things to the best of my ability, and I will not repeat it. Now, on the anniversary of his martyrdom, I offer congratulations and condolences on my own behalf and that of the rest of the respected deputies from Azerbaijan, first of all to the blessed presence of his holiness (may God keep our souls), second to the one who occupies the great position of leader, and third to the entire Muslim nation of Iran, especially the residents of Tabriz and their great land.

I hope that the residents of sacred Tabriz will take part in the commemoration of this great exegetist, and will mount a worthy ceremony.

In conclusion, the deputy of the people of Tabriz said: I ask the great and beloved president of the republic, who witnessed first-hand the region's difficulties during his latest blessed trip to Azerbaijan, to issue decisive orders to improve the conditions and to resolve the difficulties.

Mr 'Ali Aqa-Mohammadi, the representative of the people of Hamadan, was the second pre-agenda speaker. During his talk, he noted that we must look at the important events and measures the great Iranian nation has taken under the leadership of his holiness the imam. He said:

In reality, 13 Aban [4 November] showed that this uprising is an ideological uprising with world aspirations, seeking to bring about a unified world government, and make preparations for the appearance of his holiness in a serious and practical ideological struggle, for which the Shiites have suffered many hardships and spared no effort over the centuries. Many have imagined that they could overthrow the Shiite dynasty. A great many groups of these people have been planted between the pillars of walls, and the leaders and the children of the esteemed prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) have been martyred in the corners of the Muslim nations, each one viciously. The abundance of graves of descendants of imams is testimony to the persecutions and extensive flights.

It is natural that this revolution arose with this kind of view. The revival of the idea of velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] and the non-recognition of the religious legality of any government except that of a theologian was the basis of this impulse and idea that was centered around the axis of the vice-regency, and they continued this same movement and path. The movement of the Iranian nation itself bore witness to this claim, and there was absolutely no possibility of destroying a nation and an idea with force, terrorism, slaughters and massacres, with bloodshed or slander, accusations, or the destruction of resources. The nation arose, a nation that began its movement in the name of Hoseyn (Peace Be upon Him), in the name of 'Ali (peace be upon him), and under the banner of the chief theologian. That movement was in reality a view of world issues. We did not come to manage the government in the country. If we are established in this country, we are preparing for the appearance of his holiness, and naturally we put the flag in the hands of his deputy and move only behind him. Therefore, the first principle on which this movement relies is the leadership of this uprising and movement, and the leader is important for its continuation, and if this movement is turned over to anyone other than the real standard-bearer, who must be the one who can achieve a world government, it would be the greatest deviation that could befall the movement. Just as this movement arose under the leadership of the great and exalted Imam of the nation of Islam (May God Be Pleased with Him), it will continue in the capable hands of the combative theologian, his holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Continuing his remarks, he discussed National Anti-imperialism Day. He said: Some people thought that the matter of America and imperialism might be forgotten, and the Majlis dealt with this by naming this day Anti-imperialism Day.

He stressed: America is the leader of the satans. It is important to us to fight world imperialism. The speaker continued: We must make ourselves believe that if a nation wants to live without dependence, it can do so, but the powers of the world cannot impose alien ideas on a nation. Therefore, the view that we are perpetually in conflict with imperialism is a general view to which all Muslims and revolutionaries are committed.

Continuing his remarks, Mr Mohammadi discussed overcoming the problems and obstacles of the past. He said: We must overcome the problems, and remove the obstacles that have been imposed on us over the past 50 years, and we must remove the obstacles and infusions

they tried to impose on us throughout the revolution and during the life of his holiness the imam. We must wisely and systematically identify our weaknesses and work to overcome the weak points.

In closing, he mentioned the will of his holiness the imam and cited it.

The third and final pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Eftekhari, the representative of the people of Fuman. During his talk, he mentioned the observation of Unity Week, and the fact that the births of the Prophet (Peace Be upon Him) and the Sixth Imam (Peace Be upon Him) were a motivation for these rites. He said: Such a valuable initiative provides a suitable occasion for us to try with all of our might to strengthen Muslim unity, because the matter of unity and solidarity has a fateful role to play under today's world conditions in the fate of the Muslim nations. We all know that the demonic devils are constantly plotting with the idea of disrupting the ranks of Muslims, and their transparent henchmen are always waiting for an opportunity to sow discord in the world of Islam.

Therefore, awareness is a necessity of the times which we must not ignore. We have a critical and historic mission, and in the first round of activity we must achieve domestic order and unity. Fortunately, you have shown that we have thwarted all the satanic plots of the imperialists and international masters of power with alertness and insight, and we consider worthless the divisive plots under the names of Shi'ism and Sunnism. Moreover, unity and solidarity on a broad scale, meaning a common heart and tongue among all of the world's Muslims, is the aim of the Islamic Republic of Iran, because we believe that the greatness, nobility, and splendor of ourselves as Muslims hinges on the unshakable unity of all of the Islamic nation throughout the world.

Explaining that the judicial power is one of the valuable pillars of our people's government, he said: Fortunately, the assignment of the leadership of this power to a pious and sincere crusader whose entirely honorable life has been spent on the straight path following the epochal orthodox Islam of Mohammad (Peace Be upon Him) is the best guarantee of the implementation of the laws and regulations. Undoubtedly, a society that expects the precise and acceptable enforcements of criteria and legal regulations must have worthy, capable, and properly performing officials at the head of the judicial power, and thanks to the fortuitous choice of his holiness Ayatollah Yazdi, there is the hope that the judicial power will have the true status worthy of its name, and that this jurisprudent will be a refuge for the oppressed and for those seeking justice.

The Fuman deputy discussed the characteristics of agriculture and the fact that the cultivation of tobacco has been and continues to be one of the important agricultural activities of the Fumanat area. He said: Unfortunately, the severe dependence of the shah's sinister government on the world market and its submission to the multi-national companies have caused the disregard and devaluing of tobacco cultivation and the living conditions of tobacco farmers. The decline in tobacco cultivation, both in terms of quantity and quality, has had bad effects. Fortunately, with the planning provided by the government and the Smoking Materials Company, one may hope that with aid to tobacco farmers, including the purchase of tobacco leaves at just prices, in the future we will be able to free ourselves from the need to import foreign cigarettes, to avoid sending large amounts of foreign exchange out of the country, and to have development and significant progress in domestic cigarette production.

With regard to agriculture, he added: If all effective measures are properly considered, and if farmers are given comprehensive support and guidance, positive results can be obtained.

Mr Eftekhari also added: I call upon the appropriate concerned officials to issue orders so that first of all the Ministry of Agriculture will not short-change the rice and tea growers, and second that the necessary provisions be made to deal with the problems encountered this growing season in future years, so that the dear rural people will redouble their efforts with contentment and confidence and so that with the support of all the executive officials and the active efforts of the farmers of the Islamic nation we will achieve self-sufficiency in the area of agricultural crops. The study of regional economic conditions in Fumanat and correcting the malfunctions and defects in the production units and factories is also justly important, because attracting active manpower and dealing with the problems of unemployment are fully bound to this matter.

On the other hand, the encouragement of individuals to invest in industry and the support of investors in the creation of production units by resolving their problems can have deep and fundamental effects on the fate of the region.

Continuing his talk, the speaker also submitted memos to the nation's executive officials.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majlis session was the proposed law to intensify the confrontation with America's terrorist activities, submitted to the Majlis as a double-urgency motion.

(It is necessary to note that this proposal followed the enactment of a law on state terrorism by the American senate and government.)

Details of the Proposal:

In view of the irresponsible legislation by the American Congress giving the president of that country the right to arrest those convicted in American courts in any country of whatever citizenship they may have, which is now a

clear violation of international law and of the sovereignty of other countries, and in order to protect the Islamic Republic's prestige and territorial integrity, to protect the lives and the property of Iranian citizens living abroad, and to protect the interests of the Islamic Republic on the eve of National Anti-imperialism day, the article below is presented as a double-urgency motion.

Article 1: In order to respond in kind to the measures taken by the American government, authorization is given to the president, in necessary instances, to take the necessary measures to arrest and punish Americans convicted in Iranian courts.

Note 1: In connection with this, any country that irresponsibly permits America to endanger the lives of Iranian citizens or to kidnap an Iranian citizen on its soil, in violation of the basic rights of that country and in violation of international law, will be subject to the implementation of this article.

Note 2: American citizens will be tried within Iran and convicted according to Islamic law if they act against the lives of Iranian citizens and the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note 3: This law will remain in effect as long as the American president has the right to take such irresponsible measures.

Mr Asgharzadeh Explains the Motion

Mr Asgharzadeh, representative of the people of Tehran, discussed this double-urgency motion. He said: The action presented and passed in the American Congress last week was sent to the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] by the American Justice Department. Unfortunately the entire text of the legislation violates humane principles and international principles, which the Americans themselves profess to defend. The American police may, on the president's orders, arrest American or non-American citizens anywhere in the world who have violated American law, transfer them into America, and try them in American courts. They also approved a provision to give the death penalty to those who kill Americans. This is because America is caught in an extraordinary impasse by the hostage-taking in Lebanon, and it cannot fight the combative and valiant nation of Lebanon.

He then explained the reasons for the proposal. He said: We must realize that if we do not act on this proposal the lives of Iranian citizens will be in danger. The Americans are quite intent on being able to kidnap people in Lebanon, just as the Israelis kidnapped Sheykh 'Obeyd. They want to do this to Hezbollah leaders, and I even fear and worry that officials of the Islamic Republic may be kidnapped as well. You cannot rule out anything with respect to America's aggressive foreign policy. Today we certainly want to defend our national resources.

Dr Sheybani spoke in opposition to the double-urgency motion. He said: The Islamic Republic is a just and fair republic. If criminal America wants to commit its crimes, there is no need for us to respond in kind. If you Iranians are strong enough, then destroy America, but don't sit here and shout slogans. The Majlis is not the place for slogans. Stop playing these games, you have disgraced us before the world. What is the urgency for us to adopt this motion? Even if they do commit a crime, we ought not to. The Iranian nation is weary of this kind of talk. I say as a national deputy that this motion is in no way necessary. If you want to pass a law, it should be studied in commission. America is portraying us as terrorists with all its might, but it announces what it is going to do officially and no country opposes it.

Mr Seyyed Reza Akrami, Semnan deputy, spoke in favor of the double-urgency motion. He began by saying:

Mr Sheybani is not talking about the motion in general, signed by more than 150 of the respected deputies. His point has to do with the question of urgency, but otherwise all the people know Mr Sheybani as a man of public service who is 100 percent opposed to imperialist, world-devouring America.

He then discussed his reasons for supporting the motion. He said: America's move may have been intended to upstage the 13 Aban [4 November] observances and the heroic Iranian nation's confrontation with America, since this motion came to the Majlis on the eve of that day.

Mr Akrami continued: There are two reasons for this motion to confront America: 1) The lives of Iranian citizens may be threatened anywhere in the world on a minor pretext, therefore we must respond in kind. 2) Since we are on the eve of 13 Aban [4 November] and since this year's observances must be more impressive than any other year, the enactment of such a law can show the hard-line position of the Islamic revolution, the government of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation yet another time to world-devouring America, and show that our foremost thought is to denounce America. Therefore, we must make use of every suitable method to endanger America's interests so that at least it will sit in its place and not make these ugly and unworthy decisions in today's world. This is therefore neither contrary to justice nor a hasty decision, neither a slogan nor a game. Rather, this is the expression of a strategic, ideological principle that is fully appropriate and worthy.

After comments in favor and opposed, the double-urgency motion was put to a vote and passed almost unanimously.

Second Agenda Item

The second item on the agenda was a report from the Commission on Islamic Guidance and Art concerning

the proposed law to preserve the works and memory of his holiness Imam Khomeyni (may his grave be sanctified).

Mr Sheybani spoke in opposition to the proposal and Mr Musavi-Tabrizi spoke in support. Then the general proposal was put to a vote and passed.

The Islamic Consultative Majlis then began discussing the details of the proposal.

Article 1: It is forbidden to print and publish the biography, works, and talks of his holiness Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) by any real and legal persons or by government or non-government companies, without confirmation of the accuracy of the contents by the Imam Khomeyni Works Publication Institute, which, as ordered by his holiness, is managed under the supervision of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. It is incumbent upon the aforementioned persons and institutions to submit ahead of time the sources approved by the institute cited or to obtain the necessary approval from this center and submit them to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Article 2: The Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education are required to publish the biography, will, and important speeches of his holiness Imam Khomeyni (may his noble grave be sanctified), especially the first and second publications of the revolution, in a suitable manner in the elementary, secondary, high school, and university textbooks.

Article 3: The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Islamic Republic SEDA VA SIMA Organization [the Islamic Republic's broadcasting organization], the Islamic Propaganda Organization, and the Qom Seminary Propaganda Office must prepare and carry out comprehensive and extensive programs in coordination and cooperation with the Emam Khomeyni Works Publication Institute to promote, distribute, and publish the works, ideas, and biography of his holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God have mercy upon him, both within and outside the country, using all cultural, artistic, distribution, and media resources.

Note—SEDA VA SIMA of the Islamic Republic of Iran must publish and distribute the teachings of his holiness Imam Khomeyni (may the peace of God be upon him), as follows: 1) Broadcast the talks of his holiness Imam Khomeyni. 2) Read the proclamations of his holiness Imam Khomeyni, especially on suitable occasions. 3) Teach his scholarly books in educational programs.

The articles above were put to a vote and passed.

The Final Agenda Item

The final item on the agenda was the law to implement articles 85 and 138 in the Constitution with regard to the duties of the Majlis speaker, which was submitted as a double-urgency motion.

Concerning the double-urgency motion, Mr Movahedi-Saveji spoke in favor and Mr Shahraki spoke in opposition. Then the double-urgency motion was put to a vote and rejected. Then the motion was presented as a single-urgency motion and approved.

The Islamic Consultative Majlis will have a public session this morning.

Memos From the Deputies to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Mr Shafe'i, Marand deputy: To the minister of energy, repair and rebuild the rural electric power poles in Marand, Sahel Bandi and Rud-e Aras; to the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, investigate the situation with improper veiling in the private hospitals.
- Mr Taha'i, Tonekabon and Ramsar deputy: To the president's aide for commerce and the minister of commerce, expedite the procurement of corrugated tin needed in the province and the procurement of asbestos for Iranian construction; to the president's first deputy and the Plan and Budget Organization, complete the construction and equipping of Shahid Raja'i Hospital in Tonekabon and complete the construction of Emam Sajjad Hospital in Ramsar.
- Mr Saleh-Abadi, Mashhad deputy: To the minister of commerce and to the Economic Mobilization Staff, procure the raw materials needed for the production guilds and increase their allocation.
- Mr Khalkhali, Qom deputy: To the minister of defense and armed forces support, control the livestock in the Qom area roadways; to the minister of agriculture, procure the water for agriculture and agricultural implements for the 12 Qom area villages; to the minister of energy, electrical power for 13 Aban [4 November] for the Qom area.
- Mr Mirzapur, Rudbar deputy: To the minister of education and training, establish education and training representation in the Barreh Sar area; to the minister of energy, gas service in the city of Rudbar.
- Mr Kabiri, Marv Dasht: To the Council of Ministers, approve executive guidelines for the Idle Lands Assignment Law.
- Mr Molazehi, Iranshahr deputy: To the minister of petroleum, expedite the construction of the Iranshahr fuel depot.

Japanese Envoy's Position on U.S. Policy Hit

PM0811152389 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Excuses, Japanese Style"]

[Text] The Japanese ambassador in Tehran has given an interview to an afternoon daily during which he stressed the possibility that Japan is influenced by the United States when it comes to its policies toward Iran. He said: I think that in political matters there is the possibility that American policy toward Iran has an effect on Japan's policy toward Iran.

In the political world it is customary for even the most dependent of countries to deny their dependence on the "mother" country, at least in words. Yet the representative of the Japanese government in a country whose number one enemy is the United States makes this statement, stressing the possibility of being influenced by the United States. This indicates the depth and the kind of relations that exist between the United States and Japan.

Tokyo has shown many times in the past that it does not have the power to confront the policies dictated by Washington. The latest of these is the difficulties between Iran and Japan over the joint petrochemical project in Bandar Khomeyni, during which the Japanese showed the utmost obedience to imperialist policies toward the Iranian revolution.

During the interview mentioned the Japanese ambassador said: The Japanese government is not involved in any way in the petrochemical project. This is a joint project between private companies in Iran and Japan, and the Japanese government has no role in it. The ambassador of a developed country like Japan is not really expected to make excuses for his government's dependence on U.S. policy by alluding to repetitive reasons which even the most politically naive people do not believe.

If we leave all that aside, we come to another section of Mr Ambassador's comments which, of course, indicates nothing new but does nevertheless bring something out into the open and make one feel sorry for the Japanese. The ambassador said: "In the event of a major and widespread invasion, our policy is to rely on the Americans to defend us against such an invasion.

Our point in this matter is that Japan can rely on its own enormous economic might and hard-working people to act independently of the United States in all fields. In this area Iran, which despite all the pressures acts independently, can act as a good role model. Of course, realizing this demands independent thought by Japanese government officials. Unfortunately, the current trend indicates otherwise, so much so that today the United States and the West have the biggest field of maneuver in Japan's political, economic, military and—most important of all—cultural fields.

Nepal

PRC Premier Li Peng Conducts Official Visit

Arrives With Entourage

BK1911071489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 19 (AFP)—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived here Sunday [19 November] on the last leg of his three-nation South Asian tour.

Mr. Li and his entourage were greeted by a 21-gun salute and welcomed by Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and Mrs. Bishnu Devi Shrestha at the Tribhuvan international airport.

Mr. Li arrived from Bangladesh, the second leg of his tour following his earlier visit to Pakistan on his first trip abroad since the June 3-4 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

Meets With Shrestha

BK1911145189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 19 (AFP)—Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng met here Sunday with his Nepalese counterpart, Marich Man Singh Shrestha, for talks focusing on Sino-Nepalese economic and technical cooperation, officials said.

Mr. Li told a press conference after the meeting that the two men had "discussed Sino-Nepalese cooperation on economic, technical, scientific and trade" issues.

He did not elaborate when asked if regional issues and specific projects came up during the talks.

Mr. Shrestha for his part said the talks would continue Monday.

Sources close to both delegations said India's eight-month trade blockade of Nepal came up during the talks.

Nepal has sought China's help in expanding bilateral trade via Tibet to counter the Indian blockade of its southern border, the sources said.

India closed 19 of 21 trade transit passages along the 1,040 kilometer (650 mile) Indo-Nepalese border following the March 23 expiration of a 1978 bilateral trade and transit agreements between Nepal and India.

A new agreement on trade and transit has not yet been reached as Nepal wanted to sign two separate treaties, while India wanted to sign only one treaty covering both trade and transit issues.

Mr. Li arrived here early Sunday from Dhaka at the head of a 38-member entourage which included Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Foreign Trade Minister Zhen Toubin and other officials.

Nepal is the last stop on Mr. Li's three-nation South Asia tour which included Pakistan. It is the first foreign tour by a top Chinese leader since the June crackdown on pro-democracy protestors.

Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya also met with Mr. Li to discuss bilateral, international and regional issues of mutual interest, a Nepalese Foreign Ministry source said.

Discusses Indian Trade Dispute

BK2011003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2013 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 19 (AFP)—In what was seen here as a slight to India, Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said Sunday that all countries, regardless of size, should show mutual respect and not interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by his Nepalese counterpart, Marich Man Singh Shrestha, Mr. Li said, "It has always been China's steadfast policy to develop good neighbourly and friendly relations with every country in South Asia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence.

"I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm that no matter what happens in the international situation, the Chinese Government and people will as always support Nepal and other South Asian countries in their efforts to safeguard independence and sovereignty and develop their national economies.

"We support the proposals and propositions for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, South Asia a nuclear free zone and Nepal a zone of peace."

Mr. Li said China hoped the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) would continue to develop and contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Referring to ties between China and Nepal, Mr. Li said, "I am convinced that with the joint efforts of our two sides, the close and friendly relations already existing between China and Nepal will be further consolidated and strengthened."

Mr. Li did not specifically mention India or Nepal's eight-month trade dispute with its huge neighbour in his speech.

Earlier, welcoming Mr. Li and his wife Zhu Lin, Mr. Shrestha said he hoped Mr. Li's visit would prove to be another landmark in the history of Nepal-China relations.

"Nepal-China relations today have not only stood the test of time but also portend well for increased bilateral understanding and cooperation as well as for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and the world," Mr. Shrestha said.

Referring to Nepal's current econonic crisis, he said "for the past eight months, we have been facing certain difficulties which have adversely affected our economy and compounded the environmental problems," but did not mention India by name.

"I want to assure (you), however, that by adopting effective measures of self reliance and through a policy of being open at all times to friendly dialogue... we hope to find an acceptable solution to our problem," he added.

Earlier, the two prime ministers met to discuss "Sino-Nepalese cooperation on economic, technical, scientific and trade" issues, Mr. Li told a press conference.

However, he would not say whether Nepal's trade dispute with India was raised.

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Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya also met with Mr. Li to discuss bilateral, international and regional issues of mutual interest, a Nepalese foreign ministry official said.

Receives Key to Kathmandu

BK2111020689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2155 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 20 (AFP)—Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and his wife Zhu Lin were given a warm welcome at a colourful civic reception at the Kathmandu town hall hosted by Mayor Sharda Prasad Bhattarai, officials said.

Speaking at the gathering, Mr. Li praised the Nepalese Government's efforts to safeguard the country's independence, sovereignty and dignity and to pursue a foreign policy of "independence, peace and nonalignment."

"We are pleased to note that His Majesty King Birendra's proposal for declaring Nepal a zone of peace has won appreciation and support from the overwhelming majority of countries in the world," Mr. Li said.

"The Chinese people heartily rejoice at every success the fraternal Nepalese people have achieved and sincerely

wish them new successes by overcoming various difficulties on their road towards a still more bright future."

"China and Nepal have been good neighbours... since ancient times and our two peoples have enjoyed a time honoured traditional friendship," he added.

Referring to China's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, Mr. Li said, "The Chinese people... have over the past four decades turned a poor and backward China into a socialist country with initial prosperity."

"Although there are still many difficulties on our way ahead, I am convinced that we will reach our goal," he said, adding, "China will do its share for mankind... and its cooperation, based on mutual benefit and equality with all the friendly countries including Nepal, will be further strengthened."

Mr. Bhattarai presented Mr. Li with the keys of Kathmandu, and told him that Nepal was grateful to China for its support. "We are aware and appreciative of China's concern and cooperation in times of difficulties arising out of geographical complexities or other considerations," he said.

Mr. Li later met with King Birendra in Narayanhity Royal Palace, where the two men discussed bilateral, international and regional issues of mutual interest without their aides, state-run Nepal Radio said.

Later, they had dinner with Queen Aishwarya and Mrs. Zhu Lin.

Discusses Sino-Indian Ties

BK2111045889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng, has said that improvement in Sino-Indian relations is conducive to peace and stability in South Asia and also the entire world. Addressing a news conference in Kathmandu this morning, he said there were differences between the two countries, but since the visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to China last year, there is marked improvement in relations between the two countries.

Concludes South Asian Tour

BK2111051089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0456 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 21 (AFP)—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng left here Tuesday [21 November] for Beijing at the end of the three-nation South Asian tour which had also taken him to Pakistan and Bangladesh.

He told a press conference before leaving that his two-day visit to Nepal on the last leg the tour had been "very rich in its content."

He said he had held fruitful talks with Nepal's King Birendra on bilateral and international issues but declined to elaborate further.

Mr. Li's delegation also included Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin.

During the visit China granted 385 million rupees (13.6 million dollars) in economic aid to Nepal.

Summarizes South Asian Tour

BK2111084589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 21 Nov 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 21 (AFP)—Chinese Premier Li Peng left here Tuesday for Beijing at the end of a three-nation South Asian tour which included Pakistan and Bangladesh saying his visit here had been "very rich in its content."

He told a press conference he had held fruitful talks with Nepal's King Birendra on bilateral and international issues but declined to elaborate.

Mr. Li and his wife Zhu Lin were seen off at the end of his two-day visit here by Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and his wife Bishnu Devi Shrestha.

"During this visit we had exchanged views with the Nepalese side on international issues, and on bilateral issues of mutual interest" Mr. Li told the press conference, adding that China had "come to realize fully the friendly sentiment cherished by the Nepalese people towards the Chinese people."

"I am sure through this visit the China-Nepalese friendship, economic and trade cooperation between our two countries will be further enhanced," he said.

Also present at the conference were Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin.

Referring to the 385 million rupees (13.6 million U.S. dollars) in economic assistance offered to Nepal, he said China had economic difficulties and could not provide more, but he hoped it would be useful to Nepal whose economy has suffered from an eight-month-old trade and transit dispute with India.

Both China and Nepal belonged to the developing world and had supported each other in both good and difficult times, he said, adding "we are glad to notice this time that after China put down the counter-revolutionary rebellion in Beijing last June, Nepal has shown an understanding approach towards China."

"Now Nepal has found itself in certain difficulties, so China, for its part, will try its utmost to provide moral and other support to Nepal," he said.

Concerning increased contacts between Nepal and China's autonomous region of Tibet, Mr. Li stressed the urgent need to develop communications between the two sides, adding that the poor mountain road link between Kathmandu and Lhasa was being improved by a joint effort.

Mr. Li said his tour, the first abroad by a top Chinese leader since the June crackdown on pro-democracy protests, was aimed at strengthening economic, trade, educational, cutural and technological exchanges with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

"The cooperation between the developing countries and (China) is based on equality and mutual benefit," he added.

"We have visited the three South Asian nations because they are our close neighbours. So naturally we are concerned about the developments in this region."

Commenting on India's objections to China's supplying of arms to Nepal, Mr. Li said China had supplied military equipment to "some friendly nations" to increase their defensive potential, "so we believe that it is fully justified and it is not directed against any other country."

He said China wanted to see improved relations between Nepal and India and the current trade dispute should be "amicably settled for their mutual benefit" and that New Delhi should handle the situation more "generously and amicably."

India imposed a trade blockade in March when the 1978 trade and transit treaties expired and the two sides failed to agree on a new treaty or treaties.

On China's relations with India, he said the two countries were close neighbours but there had been a "long discord," although since Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China last year there had been an improvement.

"I believe that the improvement of relations between China and India is conducive to peace in South Asia and peace and stability in the world as a whole," he added.

He said China was also ready to develop friendly relations with other South Asian countries including Nepal on the basis of the "five principles of co-existence."

Mr. Li also reaffirmed China's support for declaring Nepal and the India Ocean "zones of peace" and South Asia a "nuclear free zone."

Education Minister Leaves for USSR Visit

BK1511020089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1951 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 14 (AFP)—Nepalese Education Minister Parshu Narayan Choudhary left here Tuesday [14 November] for a week-long visit to the Soviet Union.

While in Moscow, Mr. Choudhary is expected to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and sign a five-year agreement on culture, science and education. He also holds the culture portfolio.

The minister's delegation is the first high-level group to visit the Soviet Union in a decade, during which relations between Kathmandu and Moscow were strained in part due to differences over the Afghan conflict.

Observers said bilateral relations have warmed with the emergence of the new Soviet leadership led by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Under the agreement to be signed, Moscow will offer 60 scholarships each year to Nepalese to pursue higher studies in the Soviet Union in fields such as medicine, engineering and economics. The number of scholarships will increase by five each year after 1990.

In addition, the selection of scholarship recipients will be made by a Nepalese Government committee and a Soviet representative here. The selection is currently made by the Soviet Embassy with the concurrence of the Nepalese Government.

Over 350 Nepalese have returned from the Soviet Union after receiving training there, and 900 students are currently attending Soviet universities, an official here said.

The Soviet Union was one of Nepal's most important aid donors in the 1960s and provided assistance to build the country's industrial infrastructure.

The fruits of Soviet grants, which stopped in the early 1970s, include a major section of a 170-kilometer national highway and a modern cigarette factory which employs 3,000 people.

Moscow has encouraged Nepal to use long-term development loans instead of grants.

Pakistan

Iranian Interior Minister Leads Talks Delegation

Delivers Hashemi-Rafsani Message

LD1911153189 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 19, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdullah Nouri today submitted to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan a message from his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The contents of the message were not disclosed. President Khan announced Pakistan's desire to expand and strengthen its ties with Iran.

Referring to the issue of Afghanistan, he said both Iran and Pakistan have played a key role in assisting the Jihad (holy war) of the Afghan Muslim people. The continuation of this assistance by the two countries would lead to

further understanding among the Afghan Mujahidin groups, preparing the ground for the coming to power of a popular government in Kabul, the Pakistani president added.

Nouri, too, underlined the need for Pakistan and Iran to continue their assistance until the just wishes of Afghan Muslims were materialized. Arrogant governments, Nouri said, were seekig their own interests instead of those of Afghan people, in the issue of Afghanistan. He called on Afghan Mujahidin to be on alert vis-a-vis plots of their enemies. The interior minister also called for the two countries to further control their joint border which was welcomed by the Pakistani president.

Nouri, in Islamabad since Friday night [17 November] at the head of a delegation, has also met with Pakistani Foriegn Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan.

Statement on Cooperation Issued 21 Nov

BK2111155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to take concrete steps to prevent smuggling, illegal border crossings, trafficking and use of narcotics, and to cooperate on border security, increased border trade, and an improved communication system. This was included in a joint press statement read today by Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan during a news conference in Islamabad. Iranian Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri also was present.

Both sides reiterated determination to promote friendly relations based on noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The Iranian interior minister described his talks with Pakistani leaders as extremely fruitful.

Joint Ministerial Meeting Ends

BK2211034089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] The Iran-Pakistan joint ministerial meeting has ended in Islamabad with a resolve to promote good-neighborliness and to maintain effective cooperation in various fields. The leader of the Pakistani delegation, Interior Minister Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, gave the assurance that neither Pakistan's soil nor its resources will be used against Iran. About narcotics control, he said it was gratifying that both the countries were eager to cooperate with each other in eliminating the evil.

The leader of the Iranian delegation, Hojjat Ol-Eslam Abdollah Nouri, in his concluding remarks expressed his complete satisfaction over the negotiations.

Border Militia Seize Arms, Drugs From Afghan Camp

BK2111121089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 21 (AFP)—Pakistani border militia raided an Afghan refugee camp near the Iranian border Monday and recovered large amounts of illegal weapons, heroin and opium, official sources said here Tuesday.

The raid was conducted on a tip-off at Gird jungle camp, some 400 kilometers (240 miles) west of here, the sources said.

The "Khairan Rifles" personnel seized four rocket launchers, 47 rockets, 10 Kalashnikov rifles, 52 mortars as well as 26 kilograms (57.2 pounds) of heroin and 1,100 kilograms (2,240 pounds) of opium, the sources said.

Two Afghan refugees have been detained for investigation, the sources said.

They said that the heroin and opium were to be smuggled to Iran, some 250 kilometers (150 miles) west of the camp.

Some three million Afghan refugees have fled to Pakistan to escape the fighting in their home country.

Army Chief Comments on "Broad-Based" Government

BK1511103989 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 7—The Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Mirza Mohammad Aslam Beg, on Tuesday [7 November] expressed the hope that a broadbased government would be formed in the country.

"I am very hopeful. I will try my best, the Government is also trying and you must also try to inculcate love and amity between them (politicians)," he told newsmen shortly before leaving the National Day party hosted by the Soviet Ambassador on the 72nd anniversary of the October 30 revolution. "This was the first advice which I gave to them," Gen Beg said.

Asked if it was not too late now that 11 months had elapsed, the Chief of Army Staff quipped back: "It is never too late."

To another question whether there was any threat of disruption and disturbances in the country, as hinted by some politicians, Gen Beg said: "No. The situation will remain completely peaceful."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the situation in Sindh, he categorically stated: "No. There is a lot of improvement to be done."

To another question whether he discussed the Afghanistan situation with the Soviet Ambassador, Mr V.P. Yakunin, Gen Beg said: "This is not my problem."

Gen Beg was the first VVIP [Very Very Important Person] to arrive for the reception. Clad in a navy blue General's tunic he changed pleasantries with Air Marshal Asghar Khan and other senior ambassadors present on the occasion. When approached by newsmen to

comment on the present situation, he said: "Not now. Maybe later," and moved ahead in the crowd.

The reception was largely attended. Prominent guests included Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Federal Ministers Aitzaz Ashan and Farooq Leghari, opposition leaders Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, Syeda Abida Hussain and her husband Fakhr Imam, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, ANP [Awami National Party] leader Ghulam Ahmed Bilour and others. The President, the Prime Minister and General Beg remained with the Soviet Ambassador in a separate room for about an hour where they discussed subjects of mutual interest. Later President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto came to cut the anniversary cake inscribed with the flags of Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

When newsmen approached Ms Bhutto she said: "There are so many others who will answer your questions today." Asked just to comment on Pakistan-Soviet relations, the Prime Minister said the relations were improving and in the last one year steps have been taken which will improve these relations. "We want better relations with the Soviet Union," she added. She said the Minister of Production would soon visit the Soviet Union bringing about a further improvement in relations.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who was standing close by, was not asked any question by newsmen. As soon as Ms Bhutto started moving away, he also joined the procession of security men and could not be approached by newsmen.

The Chinese Ambassador was repeatedly asked by newsmen to say something about the two missing diplomats, but he avoided an answer. "Everything will be okay," he said every time he was approached. Interior Minister, Chaudhy Aitzaz Ahsan told newsmen the Federal Government was doing whatever was possible to find out where the two Chinese diplomats had disappeared.

PPI [PKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] adds: On their arrival at USSR Embassy, the President and Prime Minister were welcomed by the Ambassador and other senior members of the Soviet mission. They remained with the Ambassador for some time and greeted him on the National Day of USSR. They asked the Ambassador to convey their felicitations and good wishes to the President Mikhail Gorbachev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikoliy Ivanovich Ryzhkov and to the people of the Soviet Union. They hoped that the existing friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and USSR will continue to strengthen in the years to come. Later, the President and Prime Minister mixed up with the guests and enquired about their welfare.

Ishaq Khan To Address Joint House Session in Dec

BK1411090289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] A joint session of the two houses of parliament will be held in the second week of next month. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will address the session and explain the government's policies for the next year. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim told newsmen last night that separate sessions of the Senate and the National Assembly are expected to be held after the joint session.

The parliamentary affairs minister said that the prime minister and her government are prepared to hold talks with the Combined Opposition Party's [COP's] parliamentary group on any issue which helps in stabilizing the democratic process, promoting national integration and improving the living condition of common people. He said that positive and constructive proposals to achieve these high objectives will be welcomed. However, such talks will not be possible if the COP intends only to remove the present government, the minister added.

Spokesman Denies Agreement With India on Barrage

BK2111154189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] A spokesman of the federal government has taken strict notice of Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif's statement that the government told him it is willing to permit India to construct the Wular Barrage before the Indian elections. The spokesman said the Punjab chief minister's statement is absolutely false, misleading and based on nefarious designs aimed at bringing the government into disrepute. The government had not agreed to the construction of the Wular Barrage, which violates the India-Pakistan [Indus Basin] Treaty, and a dialogue is underway with India for a settlement of the Wular Barrage dispute in light of the provision of this treaty.

The spokesman said the Punjab chief minister is politicizing the issue for expediency and harassing the government by keeping national interests at stake, which is unfortunate.

Economic Delegation on France, USSR Visits

BK2111154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] An economic delegation led by Raja Shahid Zafar, minister of state for production, left Islamabad today for an official visit to the Soviet Union. The minister of state will arrive in Moscow on 26 November after a visit to France. It is expected during his stay in Moscow he will sign an agreement on economic and technical cooperation in connection with the expansion of Pakistan Steel Mills.

Raja Shahid Zafar in a departure statement said the democratic government attaches highest priority to promotion of relations with the Soviet Union.

Commentary Hails Nuclear Plant Deal With China

BK2211053189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Syed Nazir Bukhari Commentary]

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, while visiting Pakistan recently, himself announced that the government of the People's Republic of China had agreed to give Pakistan a nuclear power plant of 300 megawatts capacity. The prime minister had explained that the nuclear plant was being provided to Pakistan under an understanding already reached between Pakistan and China for using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He also pointed out that the details of the agreement will be settled in due course of time and that the nuclear plant would operate under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, its getting a nuclear plant from a friendly country like China is most significant. It is significant in the sense that now after almost 30 years Pakistan would be able to get another nuclear plant after she received the first one from Canada in the early 1960's. Pakistan, which has been operating the Karachi nuclear plant under the strictest international safeguards, suddenly found itself hampered in its efforts of using energy for peaceful purposes when in 1974, under the impact of the Indian nuclear explosion, Canada stopped supplying nuclear fuels to Pakistan, punishing this country for acts committed by others. Since then, an international campaign was set in motion for stopping any supply of nuclear fuels to Pakistan. Also (?strict) discriminatory and unjust conditions were put on Pakistan for getting these restrictions removed. Even impediments were created in the way of Pakistan for receiving nuclear know-how and training. It goes to the credit of Pakistan that while it never succumbed to the harshest and unjustifiable conditions, at the same time, it continued its course of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The conjectures of international propaganda that Pakistan would explode its experimental nuclear bomb any time proved false always during the last 15 years.

Against this background, China agreeing to supply Pakistan the nuclear power plant should be considered as an achievement of the country. The chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has also thrown some light on this agreement. He has said that the Chinese decision is a great tribute to the present government as in the past it was essentially political difficulties that stood in the way of Pakistan getting the nuclear plant. According to him, it is an important breakthrough and will give impetus to the nuclear power program of the country. It will be the first nuclear power plant to be exported by any developing country to another developing country. The agreement does not contravene Pakistan's stand on nuclear policy which it has pursued since 1974. On the contrary, it vindicates Pakistan's stand that she would not accept any political pressures. He also hinted that more such agreements would be possible. This Chinese nuclear power plant to be constructed at Chashma Barrage will be commissioned in 1996. It will be protected under the international safeguards as to ensure its peaceful use and indicate to all that it was under international inspection.

The Pakistan-China nuclear power plant agreement is a breakthrough for Pakistan as it will prove to the world that Pakistan is only interested in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as it is not economically feasible for the country to meet its energy requirements by conventional methods. The Chinese know-how the Pakistani scientists and engineers would receive would add to their knowledge and help the country in updating its nuclear skills. However, as pointed out by the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, the envisaged acquisition of the nuclear plant is just to show a [word indistinct] to growing energy needs of the country and that Pakistan would continue its efforts of achieving self-reliance in the nuclear field.